

# The JAY ROE Collection

September 14, 2003 • Beverly Hills, California



**Bowers and Merena Galleries™**

—When great collections are sold...Bowers and Merena sells them!—





## Prices Realized

Total: 1,388,402.00

<u>Lot #</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Lot #</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Lot #</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Lot #</u>	<u>Price</u>
1	1,553.00	54	920.00	107	2,990.00	160	12,075.00
2	489.00	55	633.00	108	2,070.00	161	1,380.00
3	16,675.00	56	805.00	109	1,840.00	162	5,750.00
4	460.00	57	1,610.00	110	9,775.00	163	2,415.00
5	546.00	58	460.00	111	20,700.00	164	2,415.00
6	431.00	59	575.00	112	5,175.00	165	2,415.00
7	633.00	60	31,050.00	113	12,075.00	166	3,450.00
8	575.00	61	4,830.00	114	9,775.00	167	2,300.00
9	748.00	62	3,680.00	115	3,220.00	168	4,140.00
10	345.00	63	518.00	116	2,530.00	169	460.00
11	431.00	64	920.00	117	2,990.00	170	1,380.00
12	9,775.00	65	299.00	118	4,140.00	171	690.00
13	5,175.00	66	3,450.00	119	2,760.00	172	489.00
14	1,093.00	67	863.00	120	1,265.00	173	2,300.00
15	1,898.00	68	31,050.00	121	2,185.00	174	2,070.00
16	9,200.00	69	16,100.00	122	805.00	175	374.00
17	9,200.00	70	13,800.00	123	1,725.00	176	299.00
18	661.00	71	16,100.00	124	3,105.00	177	1,495.00
19	604.00	72	403.00	125	2,990.00	178	920.00
20	460.00	73	403.00	126	1,955.00	179	431.00
21	7,475.00	74	546.00	127	24,150.00	180	322.00
22	2,760.00	75	1,495.00	128	1,610.00	181	489.00
23	9,775.00	76	489.00	129	253.00	182	690.00
24	2,013.00	77	2,530.00	130	863.00	183	863.00
25	3,910.00	78	14,950.00	131	978.00	184	403.00
26	5,290.00	79	7,820.00	132	2,070.00	185	259.00
27	5,290.00	80	299.00	133	12,650.00	186	431.00
28	2,990.00	81	1,265.00	134	12,650.00	187	2,415.00
29	2,185.00	82	8,050.00	135	25,300.00	188	1,323.00
30	6,210.00	83	2,415.00	136	16,100.00	189	431.00
31	17,250.00	84	5,980.00	137	80,500.00	190	276.00
32	2,760.00	85	1,265.00	138	24,150.00	191	374.00
33	2,645.00	86	21,850.00	139	5,175.00	192	403.00
34	48,300.00	87	1,610.00	140	690.00	193	690.00
35	575.00	88	431.00	141	460.00	194	460.00
36	776.00	89	242.00	142	518.00	195	460.00
37	460.00	90	322.00	143	7,475.00	196	949.00
38	489.00	91	489.00	144	5,750.00	197	489.00
39	506.00	92	460.00	145	1,150.00	198	546.00
40	1,150.00	93	546.00	146	374.00	199	173.00
41	546.00	94	1,093.00	147	374.00	200	978.00
42	1,208.00	95	1,840.00	148	1,380.00	201	460.00
43	431.00	96	345.00	149	748.00	202	3,105.00
44	1,495.00	97	23,000.00	150	345.00	203	489.00
45	7,360.00	98	10,350.00	151	661.00	204	1,380.00
46	489.00	99	6,325.00	152	460.00	205	1,495.00
47	633.00	100	25,300.00	153	460.00	206	575.00
48	14,375.00	101	20,700.00	154	403.00	207	1,035.00
49	5,060.00	102	8,338.00	155	374.00	208	489.00
50	7,820.00	103	863.00	156	690.00	209	230.00
51	604.00	104	10,350.00	157	748.00	210	518.00
52	661.00	105	6,325.00	158	460.00	211	2,070.00
53	863.00	106	1,725.00	159	403.00	212	489.00

Lot #	Price	Lot #	Price	Lot #	Price	Lot #	Price
213	316.00	273	489.00	333	489.00	393	288.00
214	265.00	274	1,495.00	334	1,495.00	394	345.00
215	357.00	275	1,955.00	335	518.00	395	115.00
216	374.00	276	1,265.00	336	500.00	396	270.00
217	242.00	277	633.00	337	834.00	397	403.00
218	431.00	278	1,380.00	338	748.00	398	81.00
219	1,380.00	279	2,875.00	339	1,610.00	399	345.00
220	2,415.00	280	489.00	340	1,495.00	400	345.00
221	518.00	281	489.00	341	5,290.00	401	288.00
222	345.00	282	518.00	342	403.00	402	288.00
223	1,035.00	283	661.00	343	460.00	403	374.00
224	1,208.00	284	489.00	344	604.00	404	345.00
225	920.00	285	489.00	345	518.00	405	345.00
226	489.00	286	489.00	346	748.00	406	374.00
227	3,910.00	287	920.00	347	431.00	407	316.00
228	489.00	288	633.00	348	2,530.00	408	489.00
229	920.00	289	489.00	349	288.00	409	431.00
230	690.00	290	748.00	350	403.00	410	345.00
231	518.00	291	1,610.00	351	805.00	411	4,830.00
232	546.00	292	604.00	352	1,438.00	412	805.00
233	4,140.00	293	978.00	353	661.00	413	518.00
234	978.00	294	489.00	354	661.00	414	6,440.00
235	374.00	295	1,725.00	355	978.00	415	431.00
236	604.00	296	518.00	356	489.00	416	259.00
237	489.00	297	546.00	357	546.00	417	546.00
238	1,840.00	298	5,060.00	358	489.00	418	460.00
239	776.00	299	5,980.00	359	489.00	419	546.00
240	2,530.00	300	546.00	360	518.00	420	719.00
241	489.00	301	207.00	361	661.00	421	575.00
242	690.00	302	403.00	362	431.00	422	403.00
243	518.00	303	242.00	363	661.00	423	546.00
244	1,380.00	304	920.00	364	575.00	424	460.00
245	518.00	305	230.00	365	518.00	425	546.00
246	604.00	306	518.00	366	1,150.00	426	719.00
247	805.00	307	316.00	367	431.00	427	3,795.00
248	5,290.00	308	316.00	368	518.00	428	518.00
249	661.00	309	311.00	369	518.00	429	805.00
250	978.00	310	403.00	370	518.00	430	1,840.00
251	3,565.00	311	230.00	371	661.00	431	690.00
252	690.00	312	345.00	372	489.00	432	546.00
253	633.00	313	316.00	373	633.00	433	920.00
254	661.00	314	345.00	374	518.00	434	633.00
255	920.00	315	259.00	375	673.00	435	518.00
256	633.00	316	1,495.00	376	161.00	436	207.00
257	575.00	317	1,438.00	377	1,438.00	437	748.00
258	518.00	318	748.00	378	863.00	438	489.00
259	489.00	319	357.00	379	805.00	439	546.00
260	748.00	320	374.00	380	518.00	440	661.00
261	604.00	321	489.00	381	5,750.00	441	546.00
262	1,955.00	322	374.00	382	546.00	442	690.00
263	2,070.00	323	374.00	383	805.00	443	748.00
264	546.00	324	748.00	384	863.00	444	920.00
265	1,265.00	325	805.00	385	805.00	445	978.00
266	978.00	326	518.00	386	978.00	446	604.00
267	489.00	327	288.00	387	460.00	447	863.00
268	690.00	328	431.00	388	546.00	448	2,990.00
269	805.00	329	489.00	389	575.00	449	863.00
270	575.00	330	500.00	390	863.00	450	2,645.00
271	374.00	331	920.00	391	431.00	451	1,380.00
272	748.00	332	748.00	392	834.00	452	2,185.00



Lot #	Price	Lot #	Price	Lot #	Price	Lot #	Price
453	1,610.00	513	431.00	573	184.00		
454	978.00	514	489.00	574	1,495.00		
455	805.00	515	403.00	575	1,725.00		
456	1,150.00	516	1,380.00	576	2,530.00		
457	863.00	517	863.00	577	2,415.00		
458	1,668.00	518	403.00	578	7,475.00		
459	518.00	519	460.00	579	7,475.00		
460	805.00	520	575.00	580	316.00		
461	1,725.00	521	518.00	581	7,820.00		
462	374.00	522	86.00	582	7,590.00		
463	518.00	523	518.00	583	9,200.00		
464	345.00	524	1,610.00	584	5,520.00		
465	518.00	525	1,840.00	585	8,050.00		
466	546.00	526	1,093.00	586	5,980.00		
467	518.00	527	575.00	587	7,188.00		
468	633.00	528	604.00	588	115.00		
469	575.00	529	403.00	589	173.00		
470	345.00	530	575.00	590	219.00		
471	374.00	531	518.00	591	173.00		
472	1,265.00	532	374.00	592	86.00		
473	978.00	533	546.00	593	115.00		
474	460.00	534	546.00	594	633.00		
475	2,185.00	535	1,840.00	595	213.00		
476	1,955.00	536	604.00	596	196.00		
477	345.00	537	604.00	597	161.00		
478	460.00	538	2,415.00	598	1,610.00		
479	374.00	539	805.00	599	345.00		
480	978.00	540	1,840.00	600	1,380.00		
481	748.00	541	460.00	601	374.00		
482	748.00	542	575.00	602	1,265.00		
483	345.00	543	604.00	603	575.00		
484	316.00	544	2,645.00	604	374.00		
485	288.00	545	3,220.00	605	259.00		
486	316.00	546	1,265.00	606	201.00		
487	259.00	547	2,875.00	607	173.00		
488	431.00	548	1,840.00	608	230.00		
489	316.00	549	2,645.00	609	86.00		
490	345.00	550	2,990.00	610	259.00		
491	604.00	551	978.00				
492	978.00	552	2,645.00				
493	431.00	553	3,220.00				
494	949.00	554	1,380.00				
495	661.00	555	1,840.00				
496	3,220.00	556	3,105.00				
497	460.00	557	1,495.00				
498	403.00	558	661.00				
499	3,105.00	559	2,875.00				
500	460.00	560	2,300.00				
501	431.00	561	5,175.00				
502	604.00	562	2,070.00				
503	1,955.00	563	4,830.00				
504	1,955.00	564	4,945.00				
505	1,265.00	565	1,610.00				
506	316.00	566	2,415.00				
507	1,380.00	567	2,300.00				
508	403.00	568	1,840.00				
509	518.00	569	1,380.00				
510	374.00	570	1,610.00				
511	546.00	571	2,530.00				
512	489.00	572	2,530.00				

## Bowers and Merena "The Rarities Sale"

Auction No 11569

9/14/2003 1:00:00PM

## Prices Realized

Total: 1,108,252.00

<u>Lot #</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Lot #</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Lot #</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Lot #</u>	<u>Price</u>
1	1,208.00	69	892.00	134	3,795.00	195	4,255.00
2	2,070.00	71	3,105.00	135	2,244.00	196	2,070.00
3	518.00	72	891.00	136	8,280.00	197	1,553.00
4	1,380.00	73	2,128.00	137	6,038.00	201	1,668.00
7	2,875.00	74	5,463.00	138	2,415.00	202	1,668.00
8	1,093.00	77	1,553.00	139	3,565.00	203	6,555.00
9	16,675.00	78	1,898.00	140	2,530.00	204	2,645.00
12	656.00	80	2,875.00	141	1,208.00	206	16,100.00
13	460.00	81	1,409.00	142	3,450.00	207	5,635.00
15	2,530.00	82	1,380.00	143	2,128.00	208	4,830.00
16	1,725.00	83	1,064.00	144	4,255.00	209	6,095.00
17	345.00	84	2,300.00	145	4,140.00	210	2,530.00
18	1,955.00	86	2,588.00	146	2,588.00	212	2,300.00
19	9,775.00	87	5,290.00	147	2,645.00	213	1,495.00
20	4,485.00	88	1,955.00	148	3,680.00	214	1,380.00
21	1,323.00	89	7,763.00	149	989.00	215	1,323.00
22	3,220.00	90	7,188.00	150	2,128.00	217	1,610.00
27	1,035.00	91	1,495.00	151	1,610.00	218	1,553.00
29	3,335.00	92	4,945.00	152	2,243.00	219	7,763.00
30	1,610.00	93	1,840.00	153	1,265.00	220	6,325.00
31	3,795.00	94	949.00	154	1,668.00	221	40,250.00
32	2,185.00	95	1,150.00	155	3,335.00	224	3,565.00
33	3,220.00	96	1,955.00	156	3,105.00	225	978.00
34	3,738.00	97	3,105.00	157	978.00	226	1,438.00
35	3,680.00	98	14,375.00	158	1,265.00	227	3,220.00
36	3,565.00	99	1,093.00	159	1,898.00	229	15,525.00
37	3,565.00	100	4,255.00	160	2,760.00	230	5,290.00
38	891.00	101	1,610.00	161	2,875.00	231	3,220.00
39	1,064.00	102	1,639.00	162	7,763.00	232	6,003.00
40	978.00	103	1,495.00	163	4,945.00	234	1,840.00
41	1,150.00	104	8,280.00	164	6,038.00	236	1,610.00
42	3,220.00	105	3,163.00	165	1,725.00	237	1,265.00
43	1,553.00	106	3,335.00	166	3,002.00	238	4,313.00
44	2,243.00	107	3,450.00	167	3,278.00	239	18,975.00
45	1,783.00	108	2,645.00	168	5,750.00	240	2,875.00
46	8,510.00	110	1,955.00	169	5,520.00	241	2,990.00
47	3,335.00	111	4,600.00	172	2,473.00	242	3,220.00
49	2,243.00	113	4,543.00	173	2,415.00	243	1,035.00
50	3,565.00	114	2,128.00	174	1,208.00	244	3,565.00
51	104.00	117	5,175.00	175	1,093.00	245	1,035.00
52	173.00	118	978.00	176	949.00	246	920.00
53	63.00	119	4,025.00	177	3,450.00	247	1,323.00
55	5,405.00	120	1,438.00	178	2,760.00	248	2,645.00
56	5,520.00	121	1,323.00	179	2,070.00	249	3,565.00
57	2,300.00	122	8,625.00	180	2,875.00	250	1,208.00
58	1,898.00	123	6,670.00	181	1,668.00	251	1,495.00
60	920.00	124	2,185.00	184	2,185.00	252	1,265.00
61	1,438.00	125	3,220.00	185	2,070.00	254	7,993.00
63	2,415.00	128	2,128.00	186	2,013.00	255	4,198.00
64	2,530.00	129	1,553.00	188	2,990.00	257	10,005.00
65	3,565.00	130	1,898.00	189	2,128.00	258	2,588.00
66	2,358.00	131	2,415.00	190	2,875.00	259	1,093.00
67	1,909.00	133	4,715.00	192	2,875.00	260	1,121.00



Lot #	Price	Lot #	Price	Lot #	Price	Lot #	Price
261	1,150.00	327	2,990.00	445	276.00	541	374.00
262	1,725.00	328	2,530.00	446	489.00	542	431.00
263	1,668.00	329	2,415.00	449	322.00	543	1,208.00
264	4,140.00	330	20,700.00	450	546.00	544	891.00
265	3,105.00	331	1,208.00	451	374.00	545	1,323.00
266	1,064.00	332	2,415.00	452	316.00	546	805.00
267	1,006.00	333	2,013.00	453	920.00	547	3,565.00
268	1,610.00	334	8,050.00	454	374.00	549	11,500.00
269	3,220.00	335	2,645.00	455	518.00	550	1,725.00
270	1,898.00	336	3,048.00	456	345.00	551	242.00
271	1,323.00	337	12,075.00	457	690.00		
272	1,093.00	338	3,278.00	458	374.00		
273	2,243.00	339	1,840.00	459	345.00		
275	11,155.00	340	1,783.00	460	374.00		
276	2,415.00	341	5,750.00	461	403.00		
277	2,530.00	342	5,520.00	463	633.00		
278	2,473.00	343	2,875.00	464	489.00		
279	3,680.00	344	2,530.00	465	368.00		
280	828.00	345	2,473.00	466	368.00		
281	2,128.00	346	1,754.00	467	368.00		
282	1,208.00	347	1,380.00	472	368.00		
283	4,543.00	348	1,639.00	474	196.00		
284	16,100.00	349	5,290.00	475	173.00		
285	1,208.00	352	1,524.00	485	345.00		
286	1,116.00	355	1,380.00	486	575.00		
288	2,300.00	356	891.00	489	489.00		
289	1,783.00	357	1,438.00	491	374.00		
292	2,990.00	358	1,208.00	492	460.00		
293	834.00	360	2,070.00	493	374.00		
294	3,335.00	362	1,035.00	494	374.00		
295	1,035.00	364	1,438.00	495	374.00		
297	2,128.00	365	834.00	496	661.00		
298	12,650.00	366	1,150.00	497	719.00		
299	8,338.00	367	1,265.00	499	374.00		
301	1,725.00	368	1,495.00	500	604.00		
302	1,093.00	371	4,255.00	501	776.00		
303	1,150.00	372	2,243.00	503	345.00		
304	2,243.00	374	1,811.00	507	207.00		
305	1,610.00	376	1,093.00	508	299.00		
306	1,035.00	377	5,290.00	510	173.00		
307	4,600.00	378	12,650.00	511	575.00		
308	834.00	379	8,913.00	512	345.00		
309	1,696.00	384	4,600.00	514	345.00		
310	1,150.00	386	2,070.00	515	334.00		
311	1,725.00	387	8,510.00	516	345.00		
312	3,565.00	388	4,600.00	517	460.00		
313	1,323.00	389	2,415.00	518	345.00		
314	1,323.00	395	282.00	521	316.00		
315	2,875.00	411	230.00	523	316.00		
316	1,323.00	412	242.00	525	345.00		
317	2,185.00	427	1,208.00	526	8,625.00		
318	7,820.00	432	863.00	528	173.00		
319	1,524.00	433	242.00	529	374.00		
320	1,006.00	434	633.00	533	299.00		
321	1,794.00	435	518.00	534	184.00		
322	1,380.00	436	575.00	535	431.00		
323	633.00	438	661.00	537	431.00		
324	1,438.00	440	207.00	538	374.00		
325	6,613.00	442	719.00	539	472.00		
326	3,565.00	444	173.00	540	334.00		

Lot #

Price

Lot #

Price

Lot #

Price

Lot #

Price

THE ABOVE LOTS WERE SOLD  
AT THE PRICES STATED.  
LOT NUMBERS WHICH ARE  
OMITTED REPRESENT ITEMS  
WHICH WERE WITHDRAWN,  
PASSED OR UNSOLD AS OF THE  
PUBLICATION OF THIS LIST.  
PRICES INCLUDE THE BUYERS  
PREMIUM. NOT RESPONSIBLE  
FOR TYPOGRAPHICAL ERRORS  
OR OMISSIONS.



*The*

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JAY ROE

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COLLECTION



**September 14, 2003**

Beverly Hills, California

**BOWERS AND MERENA GALLERIES<sup>TM</sup>**

*A Collectors Universe Company*

*When Great Collections are Sold, Bowers and Merena Sells them*

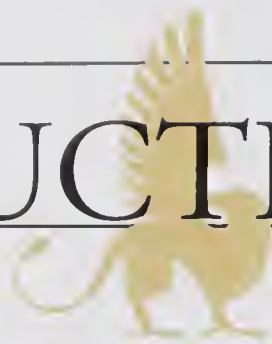
1 Sanctuary Blvd. Suite 201 • Mandeville, LA 70471 • 800-458-4646 • FAX: 985-626-8672  
California Fax for Bids Only: 949-567-1360

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# AUCTION

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*The Ballroom—Le Meridien at Beverly Hills  
465 South La Cienega Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90048  
310-247-0400*

## THE JAY ROE COLLECTION SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

*1:00 PM Pacific Time  
California Small Denomination Gold  
1-610*

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## LOT VIEWING

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### CALIFORNIA (NEWPORT BEACH)

August 19 — September 12 By Appointment Only

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

11:00 AM — 8:00 PM Pacific Time

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

9:00 AM — 5:00 PM Pacific Time  
The Garden Room, Le Meridien at Beverly Hills  
465 South La Cienega Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90048

### HELPFUL SUGGESTION

We strongly recommend that our clients who intend to view a large portion of the sale,  
plan to do so as early in the lot viewing schedule as possible.

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## LOT PICK-UP

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### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

8:00 AM — 11:00 AM Pacific Time

### *LOT VIEWING/LOT PICK-UP LOCATION*

*The Westwood Room, Le Meridien at Beverly Hills  
465 South La Cienega Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90048*



# TERMS OF SALE



**1** Auction Basics. This is a public auction sale ("Auction Sale") conducted by licensed and bonded Auctioneers, Bowers & Merena Galleries (hereinafter referred to as "Auctioneer" and at times as "Bowers"). Bidding in this Auction Sale constitutes acceptance by you ("Bidder") of all the Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale stated herein. Bidders may include consignors who may bid and purchase lot(s) in the Auction Sale consigned by the consignor or by other consignors pursuant to their consignment agreement with Bowers ("Consignor" or "Consignors"). A Consignor that bids on their own lots in the Auction Sale may pay a different fee than the buyer's premium charged to all other buyers. Bowers reserves the right to include in any auction sale its own material as well as material from affiliated or related companies, principals, officers or employees. Bowers may have direct or indirect interests in any of the lots in the auction and may collect commissions. **THE TWO PRECEDING SENTENCES SHALL BE DEEMED A PART OF THE DESCRIPTION OF ALL LOTS CONTAINED IN THE CATALOGUE.** Pursuant to a separate agreement with Bowers, Consignors or their agents may be permitted to bid on their own lots in the sale and may receive a rebate commission in whole or part if successful. Where the Consignor has re-purchased a lot and the lot is either returned to the Consignor or otherwise dealt with or disposed of in accordance with the Consignor's direction, or pursuant to contractual agreement, Bowers reserves the right to so note in the prices realized or to omit a price from the price realized. Bowers may bid for its own account at any auction. Bowers may have information about any lot that is not known publicly, and Bowers reserves the right to use such information, in a manner determined solely by Bowers and for the benefit of Bowers, without disclosing such information in the catalog, catalog description or at the auction. Bidder acknowledges and agrees that Bowers may not be required to pay a Buyer's Commission, or other charges that other Bidders may be required to pay and may have access to information concerning the lot(s) that is not otherwise available to the public. Any claimed conflict of interest or claimed competitive advantage resulting therefrom is expressly waived by all participants in the Auction Sale. Lot(s) may carry a Reserve. A Reserve is a confidential price or bid below which the Auctioneer will not sell an item or will re-purchase on behalf of the Consignor or for Bowers.

**2** Descriptions and Grading. Bidder acknowledges as follows: Grading is an art and not a science. The grade and estimated value herein represents the opinion of Bowers or its Consignor(s). It is possible that two people will not always grade the same item alike. Also, as market conditions changes, grading standards change, and will most likely continue to do so in the future. Each Bidder's own examination of the item(s) is the criterion and not the grade represented by another. Every effort is made by Bowers to determine provenance and authenticity. It is the Bidder's responsibility to arrive at a final conclusion prior to bidding. In any purchase or sale, the value of the item(s) is determined by the price. **THE BIDDER HEREBY ASSUMES ALL RISKS OF VALUE CONCERNING ANY AND ALL PURCHASES.** All photographs in this catalogue are of the actual items being sold but may not be the actual size or to scale.

**3** The Bidding Process. The Auctioneer may open or accept the bidding on any lot by placing a bid on behalf of the Consignor or his or her agent, a Bidder by mail, telephone, internet or telefax; or any other participant in the Auction Sale. The Auctioneer may accept or decline any bid, challenge to any bid or bidding increment, as the Auctioneer in their sole discretion shall determine. Bids must be for an entire lot and each lot constitutes a separate sale. No lot will be broken up unless otherwise permitted by the Auctioneer. Lots will be sold in their numbered sequence unless Auctioneer directs otherwise. It is unlawful and illegal for Bidders to collude,

pool, or agree with another Bidder to pay less than the fair value for lot(s). Bidders in the Auction Sale acknowledge that the law provides for substantial penalties in the form of treble damages and attorneys' fees and costs for those who violate these provisions. All material shall be sold in separate lots to the highest Bidder as determined by the Auctioneer. If any dispute arises, Auctioneer shall have the right to rescind the acceptance of the bid and place the lot(s) for Auction Sale again. Auctioneer's decision shall be final. For the Mail and Internet Bidder's protection, no "unlimited" or "buy" bids will be accepted. When identical bids are received for a lot, preference is given to the first bid received as determined by the Auctioneer. A mail bid will take precedence over an identical floor bid; a Floor Bidder and Telephone Bidder must bid higher than the highest mail bid to be awarded any lot. Auctioneer reserves the right to refuse any bid, to reduce any mail bid received, to open the bidding of a lot at any level deemed appropriate by the Auctioneer and to determine the prevailing bid, at his sole discretion. **THIS IS NOT AN APPROVAL SALE.** Bidders who physically attend the Auction sale, either personally or through an agent ("Floor Bidders") should carefully examine all lots which they are interested in purchasing. Bidders who bid by telephone, either personally or through an agent, receive a similar benefit as Floor Bidders in being able to actively participate in the live Auction Sale ("Telephone Bidders"). Therefore, except as otherwise provided in these Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale, **NO LOT MAY BE RETURNED THAT IS PURCHASED BY A FLOOR BIDDER. A TELEPHONE BIDDER, AN OTHER BIDDER WHO HAS HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO VIEW THE LOT(S), OR ANYONE PRESENTING BOWERS WITH A RESALE CERTIFICATE OR OTHER EVIDENCE THAT THEY ARE ACTING AS A DEALER.** For Bidders by mail, telefax or internet, who have not had the opportunity to view the lot(s), if there is a material error in the catalogue description, the lot may be returned if written notice is received by Bowers within five (5) calendar days of receipt of the lot(s). The lot(s) must be received by Bowers no later than twenty-one (21) calendar days after the Auction Sale in the same condition the lot(s) were delivered to the Bidder, in their original containers. Late remittance constitutes just cause for revocation of all return privileges. All prospective Bidders who have had the opportunity to examine the lot(s) prior to the Auction Sale personally assume all responsibility for any damage that Bidder causes while handling or examining lot(s). Bowers shall have sole discretion in determining the value of the damage caused, which shall be promptly paid by the prospective Bidder. **BOWERS IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ERRORS IN BIDDING.** A Bidder should make certain to bid on the correct lot and that the bid is the maximum (plus the fifteen percent (15%) Buyer's Commission) that he or she is willing and able to pay. Once the hammer has fallen and the Auctioneer has announced the winning Bidder, the Bidder is unconditionally bound to pay for the lot, even if the Bidder has made a mistake. Bowers reserves the right to withdraw any lot at any time, even after the hammer has fallen, until the Bidder has taken physical possession of the lot. No Bidder shall have a right to claim any consequent damages if a lot is withdrawn, even after the Auction Sale.

**4** Bidder Registration Required. All persons seeking to bid must have a catalogue and register to bid at the auction by completing a registration card or bid sheet. By submitting a bid, the Bidder acknowledges that Bidder has read the Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale, the descriptions for the lot(s) on which they have bid, and that they agree to adhere to these Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale. This agreement shall be deemed to have been made in California. The Bidder acknowledges that the invoice describing a lot by number incorporates the catalog and Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale.



**5** Prices, Payment and Delivery. A Buyer's Commission of fifteen (15%) on each individual lot will be added to all purchases made by Bidders, except for reacquisitions by Consignors, regardless of affiliation with any group or organization, and will be based upon the total amount of the final bid. A reacquisition charge may apply to Consignors pursuant to a separate agreement, which may be higher or lower than the Buyer's Commission. Unless otherwise agreed in writing, auction sales are strictly cash in U.S. funds payable through a bank in the United States. On any cash transaction or series of transactions exceeding \$10,000, Treasury Form 8300 will be filed. Contact Bowers for wiring instructions before sending a wire. Lots must be paid for the earlier of receipt invoice or delivery. Bowers reserves the right to decline to release lots for which good funds have not yet been received. On any accounts past due, Bowers reserves the right to extend credit and impose periodic charges. Bidder agrees to pay reasonable attorney's fees and cost incurred to collect on such past due accounts. Payment by Visa and Mastercard may be accepted for internet bidders. Bids will not be accepted from those persons under eighteen (18) years of age without a parent's written consent which acknowledges the Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale herein and agrees to be bound thereby on behalf of the Bidder. Bidders personally and unconditionally guarantee payment that are or become owed to Bowers. If a corporation is the Bidder, the corporate representative present at the sale shall provide Bowers at the time of registration with a statement signed by each principal, director and officer that they each personally and unconditionally guarantee any and all current or future obligations owed to Bowers or such other statement as may be acceptable to Bowers, in the sole discretion of Bowers. Bidders who have not established credit with Bowers must furnish satisfactory credit references or deposit at least twenty-five percent (25%) of their total bids for that Auction Sale session(s) or such other amounts as Bowers may, in its sole and absolute discretion, require before such bids will be accepted. Deposits submitted will be applied to purchases. Any remaining deposits will be promptly refunded, upon clearance of funds. Bowers will not assume responsibility for the shipping and packaging of certain larger items or items of a more fragile nature sold in this sale as determined by Bowers. It is the Bidder's responsibility to contact Bowers after the sale to make shipping and packaging arrangements. Due to the fragile nature of some lots, Bowers may be forced to charge additional shipping and handling. Lots indicated as being "framed" are shipped at the Bidder's risk. Taxes, postage, freight charges, if applicable, handling, insurance, the fifteen percent (15%) Buyer's Commission, and any other fees required by law to be charged or collected will be added to the invoice for any lot(s) that is invoiced to successful Bidders. On any tax not paid by Bidder which should have been paid, even if not collected by Bowers by mistake, error, negligence or gross negligence, Bidder agrees to promptly pay the same on demand together with any interest or penalty that may be assessed. Title to any lot remains with Consignor, any secured party of the Consignor, or Consignor's assigns, as the case may be, until the lot is paid for in full by Bidder. Bowers reserves the right to require payment in full before delivering any lot to the successful Bidder. The RISK OF LOSS passes to the Bidder upon delivery of the lot(s).

**6** Financial Responsibility. In the event a successful Bidder fails to make payment when due, Bowers reserves the right to resell the lot(s) in a commercially reasonable manner, which may include a private sale. Bidder agrees to pay for the reasonable cost of such a sale, together with any incidental costs of sale, including reasonable attorney's fees and costs, cataloguing and any other reasonable charges. Bidder grants to Bowers or its assigns the right to offset any sums due, or found to be due to Bowers, and to make such offset from any past, current, or future consignment, purchases that are in the possession or control of Bowers; or from any sums due to Bidder by Bowers. Bidder further grants Bowers a purchase money security interest in such sums or items to the extent applicable. Bidder agrees that Bowers and its assigns shall be a secured party with respect to items bought by Bidder and in the possession of Bowers, to the extent of the maximum indebtedness, plus all accrued expenses attorney fees and costs, until the indebtedness is paid. Bidder grants Bowers the right to file a UCC-1 financing statement on such items without need for Bidders signature, and to assign such interest to any affiliated or related company or any third party deemed appropriate by Bowers. If the auction invoice is not paid for in full when due per invoice terms, the unpaid balance will earn interest at the rate of one-and-one-half percent (1-1/2%) per month until it is paid in full. In the event this interest rate exceeds the interest permitted by law, the same shall be adjusted to the maximum rate permitted by law. Bidder agrees to pay

all reasonable attorney's fees, court costs and other collection costs incurred by Bowers or any affiliated or related company to collect past due invoices. Bowers reserves the right to assign its interest to any third party.

**7** DISCLAIMER AND WARRANTIES. NO WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE IS MADE OR IMPLIED ON ANY LOT. NO WARRANTY, WHETHER EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED, IS MADE WITH RESPECT TO ANY LOT EXCEPT FOR WARRANTY OF TITLE, AND IN THE CASE OF TITLE, AUCTIONEER IS SELLING ONLY THAT RIGHT OR TITLE TO THE LOTS THAT AUCTIONEER MAY HAVE BY VIRTUE OF THE CONSIGNMENT AGREEMENTS WITH CONSIGNORS AS OF THE AUCTION SALE DATE. PURCHASER HEREBY ASSUMES ALL RISKS CONCERNING AND RELATED TO THE GRADING OF A LOT.

- a. All sales of items (1) viewed by Bidders in advance of a sale, even if the sale is by mail, telefax or internet, or (2) bid upon by Floor Bidders, Telephone Bidders and Bidders who present Bowers with a resale certificate, out of state resale certificate, or similar evidence in acting as a dealer; ARE FINAL AND MAY NOT BE RETURNED.
- b. Any and all claims that an item is not authentic, must be made in writing to Bowers within five (5) calendar days after receipt of the item.
- c. If an item or items are returned pursuant to the terms herein, they must be housed in their original, sealed and unopened container.
- d. Late remittance or removal of any item from its original container constitutes just cause for revocation of all return privileges.
- e. Grading or condition of rare coins may have a material effect on the value of the item(s) purchased, and the opinion of others (including independent grading services) may differ with the independent grading services opinion or interpretation of Bowers. Bowers shall not be bound by any prior, or subsequent opinion, determination or certification by any independent grading service.
- f. Questions regarding the minting of a coin as a "proof" or as a "business strike" relate to the method of manufacture and not to authenticity.
- g. All oral and written statements made by Bowers and its employees (including affiliated and related companies) are statements of opinion only, and are not warranties or representations of any kind, unless stated as a specific written warranty, and no employee or agent of Bowers has authority to vary or alter these Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale. Any alteration shall be effective only if in writing and signed by an officer of Bowers authorized to do so.
- h. Bidders shall have no recourse against the Consignor for any reason whatsoever.
- i. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in these Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale, COINS LISTED IN THIS CATALOGUE GRADED BY PCGS, NGC OR ANACS CACHET, OR ANY OTHER THIRD PARTY GRADING SERVICE MAY NOT BE RETURNED FOR ANY REASON WHATSOEVER.
- j. Bidder acknowledges that the rare coin market is speculative, unregulated and volatile, and that coin prices may rise or fall over time. Bowers does not guarantee that any customer buying for investment purposes will be able to sell for a profit in the future.

**8** Waiver and Release. Bidder, for himself, his heirs, agents, successors and assigns, generally and specifically waives and releases, and forever discharges Bowers, and its respective affiliates, parents, shareholders, agents, subsidiaries, employees, members of their respective boards of directors, and each of them, and their respective successors and assigns from any and all claims, rights, demands and causes of actions and suits, of whatever kind or nature, whether in law or equity, whether known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, which Bidder may claim to have with respect to and/or arising out of, or in connection with any challenge to the title to any goods purchased, the sale itself, and/or the auction, except where such reimbursement is otherwise authorized in these Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale. It is the intention of Bidder that this waiver and release shall be effective as a bar to each and every claim, demand, cause of action and suit that may arise hereunder, and Purchaser hereby knowingly and voluntarily waives any and all rights and benefits otherwise conferred upon him by the provi-



sions of Section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which reads in full as follows:

A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS WHICH THE CREDITOR DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE, WHICH IF KNOWN BY HIM MUST HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR."

**9** Disputes. If a dispute arises concerning ownership of a lot that has been bid upon, Bowers reserves the right to commence a statutory interpleader proceeding at the expense of the Consignor and successful Bidder and any other applicable party, and in such event shall be entitled to its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs. Bowers reserves the right to postpone the Auction Sale or any session thereof for a reasonable period of time for any reason whatsoever. No Bidder shall have any claim as a result thereof, including incidental or consequential damages. Neither Bowers nor any affiliated or related company shall be responsible for incidental or consequential damages arising out of any failure of the Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale, the auction or the conduct thereof and in no event shall liability for any such failure exceed the purchase price, premium, or fees paid. If the Bidder fails to comply with one or more of these Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale, then, in addition to all other remedies which it may have at law or in equity, Bowers may at its sole option either (a) cancel the sale, retaining all payments made by Bidder as liquidated damages, it being recognized that actual damages may be speculative or difficult to compute, or (b) sell a portion or all of the lot(s) held by Bowers, in a quantity sufficient in the opinion of Bowers to satisfy the indebtedness, plus all accrued charges, and Bowers may sell such portion at an auction sale or private sale conducted by Bowers and charge a seller's commission that is commercially reasonable. More than one such sale may take place at the option of Bowers. Notice of the sale shall be by U.S.P.S. Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested to the address utilized on the Bid Sheet, Auction Consignment and Security Agreement or other last known address by Bowers. The proceeds shall be applied first to the satisfaction of any damages occasioned by Bidder's breach, then to any other indebtedness owed to Bowers, including without limitation, commissions, handling charges, the expenses of both sales, reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, collection agency fees and costs and any other costs or expenses incurred. Bidder is also liable to Bowers if the proceeds of such sale or sales is insufficient to cover the indebtedness. Rights granted to Bidders under the within Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale are personal and apply only to the Bidder who initially purchases the lot(s) from Bowers. The rights may not be assigned or transferred to any other person or entity, whether by sale of the lot(s), operation of law or otherwise. Any attempt to assign or transfer any such rights shall be absolutely void and unenforceable. No third party may rely on any benefit or right conferred by these Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale.

**10** General Terms. These Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale and the auction shall be construed and enforced in accordance with, and governed by, the laws of the State of California, regardless of the location of the Auction Sale. Bidder acknowledges and agrees that the competent courts of the State of California shall have exclusive jurisdiction over any dispute(s) arising hereunder, and Bidder hereby agrees that any dispute arising hereunder shall be litigated exclusively in the courts of the State of California, regardless of any party's current or future residence or domicile. Bidder further agrees that venue shall be in the Superior Court for Orange County, in the State of California. Bidder agrees that any legal action with respect to this Auction Sale is barred unless commenced within one (1) year of the date of this Auction Sale. Bidder may have the right to submit disputes to binding arbitration pursuant to the rules of the Professional Numismatists Guild ("PNG"). If any section of these Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale or any term or provision of any section is held to be invalid, void, or unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining sections or terms and provisions of a section shall continue in full force and effect without being impaired or invalidated in any way. Bowers may at its sole and absolute discretion, make loans or advances to Consignors and/or Bidders.

## SPECIAL SERVICES

**11** If you wish to limit your total expenditure, please fill in the maximum amount you wish to spend on the MAXIMUM EXPENDITURE line at the upper portion of your bid sheet. You can then submit bids for amounts up to eight times the amount of the maximum expenditure. This is a personal service and a Bowers and Merena customer representative will personally attend to your bid sheet by bidding from the auction floor, buying lots for your account until your authorized expenditure is reached. While we will do our best in your behalf, due to the speed of the auction sale and the sometimes crowded conditions, we cannot be responsible for failure to execute such a bid properly. Due to the bookkeeping involved, this service is offered only to bidders with maximum expenditures of \$1,000 or more. MAXIMUM EXPENDITURE and ONE LOT ONLY bidding can be combined.

**12** Up to five lots may be grouped with brackets for a ONE LOT ONLY purchase, if you wish to purchase only one example of a coin of which several examples appear in the sale. Such lots should be bracketed on your bid sheet. While we will do our best on your behalf, due to the speed of the auction sale and the sometimes crowded conditions, we cannot be responsible for failure to execute such a bid properly.

**13** We invite you to take advantage of the optional 10% to 30% increase to help your chance of being a successful bidder. Check the appropriate place on your bid sheet.

**14** Bidding in this auction sale constitutes acceptance by the bidder of the foregoing terms of sale.

*Please note: Transparent holders in which the auction lots are stored are to facilitate viewing and inspection of the lots and ARE NOT for long-term storage.*

## FOR BEST ATTENTION:

Presale bidding online at [www.bowersandmerena.com](http://www.bowersandmerena.com) until:

**7 AM, PACIFIC TIME,  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2003  
FOR SESSION ONE**

**1 PM, PACIFIC TIME,  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2003  
FOR SESSION TWO**

Please submit mail and fax bids by:

**9 AM, PACIFIC TIME,  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2003**

**PRICES REALIZED** For prices realized after the sale, call (888) 540-2646, Prices realized will be posted on the Internet soon after the sale at [www.bowersandmerena.com](http://www.bowersandmerena.com)

# EXPANDED PERSONAL SERVICE FOR OUR MAIL BIDDERS

You can improve your chances of being a winning bidder in this auction sale! Take advantage of our Maximum Expenditure service—bid on lots totaling up to eight times the amount you wish to spend (\$1,000 minimum), or use our One Lot Only service and bid on up to five lots and be assured of getting no more than one—or use both features together. Please see points 11 and 12 in the Terms of Sale.



## Bid Sheet

Bowers and Merena Galleries

A Collectors Universe Company  
1 Sanctuary Blvd., Suite 201  
Mandeville, LA 70471  
(800) 458-4646

Fax your bids 24 hours a day! Our fax number is 1-949-567-1360! Be sure to follow up your fax or phone bids with written confirmation.

OFFICE USE ONLY

No.

Date

Deposit

Max.

O.L.O.

### IMPORTANT! PLEASE READ TERMS OF SALE BEFORE BIDDING.

Gentlemen:

Here are my bids for your JUNE 2003 Sanctuary Sale. I have read the Terms of Sale (printed in the catalogue) and agree to them. I am of legal age. I understand that my bids are per lot. I agree to pay promptly upon receipt of your invoice, including postage and insurance costs.

ATTACH MAILING LABEL OR PRINT CLEARLY

Name John Dow

Customer #

Street or P.O. Box 123 Pleasant St.

City Anytown

State CA Zip 12345

Daytime Telephone (123) 555-1111

Fax # (123) 555-1234

Signature (bid sheet MUST be signed) John Dow

Date 6/20/03

PLEASE CHECK IF THIS IS A CONFIRMATION OF BIDS SUBMITTED BY PHONE OR FAX.

Deposit on Sale

\$ \$2,000

SPECIAL SERVICES

Maximum Expenditure

\$ \$8,000

Please increase my bids  
10% ☐ 20% ☐ 30% ☐  
if necessary to obtain lots.

A 15% buyer's premium will be added to all successful bids.

If you are using the One Lot Only option, please use the narrow column to group the lots with a bracket:

LOT	BID	OFFICE USE ONLY	LOT	BID	OFFICE USE ONLY	LOT	BID	OFFICE USE ONLY
( 72	900		( 1589	1,800				
74	1,100		1592	2,000				
78	1,275		1600	1,300				
( 439	1,550		( 2165	395				
443	1,350		2175	700				
450	2,500		2180	150				
1127	275		2304	1,400				
1131	1,300		2307	650				
1219	860		2523	1,225				
			2572	800				

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR NEW BIDDERS

The following information must be supplied to us before your bids can be executed. Bidders who are not known to us must send a deposit of 25% of their bids. The deposit will be credited toward lots purchased and any balance will be refunded within 10 working days after the sale.

Have you done business before with Bowers and Merena? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Are you a dealer? No Do you have a resale number on file with us? \_\_\_\_\_

Other dealers with whom you have done business: Natl. Rare Coins, Inc.

Western America Numismatics, Inc.

Bank references: Anytown First National Bank

Attn: Nancy Smith, Cashier

Fax us your bid sheet  
(any time, 24 hours  
a day). Our direct  
fax number is  
(949) 567-1360.



# *Bowers and Merena* ORGANIZATION

*President, Paul Montgomery*  
*Vice President, Mark Borckardt*

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Pam Roberts, *Director of Auction Services*  
Sue Mitchell  
Brett Roberts

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Bruce Amspacher  
Mark Borckardt  
Ron Guth  
Jim Matthews  
Paul Montgomery  
Tom Mulvaney

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Raeleen Endo, *Manager of Auctions*  
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Cosetta Robbins  
Gayle Kean  
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Joy Miller  
Cindy Tucker  
Judith Wyman

## GRAPHICS

Prax Cruz  
Don Hallack

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Tom Mulvaney, *Director of Photography*  
Henry Owen  
Nancy Smith  
Don Hallack  
Ceilia Mullins  
Ron Castro  
Prax Cruz

*Appreciation is extended to the following for the preparation of this catalogue:*

Cataloguing and numismatic expertise by Mark Borckardt, Ron Guth, Jim Matthews.

Catalogue production by Prax Cruz and Don Hallack.

Thank you to the entire Bowers and Merena Galleries staff as well as all our friends and partners at Collectors Universe for help in many ways. The presenting of a sale such as this is a highly coordinated team effort involving many talented people.

*All illustrations are of the actual items being sold.*



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# WELCOME TO THE "JAY ROE" CALIFORNIA GOLD SALE!

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YOUR PERSONAL INVITATION FROM  
*Paul Montgomery and everyone at  
Bowers and Merena Galleries*



Dear Neighbor,

At Bowers and Merena, we're no strangers to conducting auctions of prestigious, high-profile collections (the names Eliasberg, Norweb, and Bass come to mind). Yet we never cease to be thrilled with the honor and privilege of being selected to auction a famous collection to the public. We're pleased and proud to bring you the "Jay Roe" California Gold Sale. The sale will be conducted September 14, 2003, in Beverly Hills, California.

Dr. John Westel Rowe, known to his family and friends as Jack and to everyone in the numismatic community as "Jay Roe," became one of the world's leading experts on California Small Denomination Gold Pieces, or California Fractional Gold as it is sometimes called. Over a lifetime of collecting, he amassed an extraordinary collection unmatched by any other in the world that we know of. The content of this unique collection is the product of the raucous, rambunctious, glorious time in U.S. history known as the California Gold Rush.

Since it was clear on the opposite side of the continent from where the country's money was made, and separated by a skyscraping mountain range to boot, mid-19th century California had little in the way of actual money to use in

conducting business during the frenzied forty-niner days. Things were bought literally with so many pinches of gold dust or with a motley collection of often-overvalued foreign coins – a cumbersome method of commerce at best that often led to violent and even deadly disputes about fair payment.

Before the U.S. Mint eventually got into the act (forced into it more or less reluctantly) and started supplying currency to the West Coast, entrepreneurs filled the gap by fashioning coins in private mints to make it easier to pay for beans and pickaxes and tobacco and liquor and...well, the other things the Gold Rush crowd lusted to buy.

The result was a wildly polyglot array of distinctive coins, each with a unique history. Some were exquisite, some were ordinary, and some outright homely. But every one of them wrote at least a paragraph or two in the colorful tale of the California Gold Rush.

It was the kind of robust, adventurous romance that held great fascination for a vigorous outdoorsman like Jay Roe. After being introduced to coin collecting by fellow chemist Roger Rowell, Jay soon found his way into the coins of the Wild West and was hooked. He plunged into this sometimes quirky numismatic niche with the same kind of passion he brought to everything he did. He pored over the historical records and pursued details and leads like a Sherlock Holmes with the game afoot.

He became the "expert's expert" on



California gold and amassed, piece by careful piece, the most extraordinary collection of Calgold in the world. He set his standards to the highest bar and refused to accept less.

As a result of his focused and intense fervor for these homespun coins, Jay Roe's collection became the most extensive aggregation of these unique coins ever assembled.

Some individual pieces Jay had already dispersed to other knowledgeable collectors as his health began to fade. But this sale will present 610 lots, many of which are the finest known specimens. This is the No. 1 Registry Set (Complete Series) of small California gold. Jay Roe was never satisfied with less than the best.

As a gold bug with a soft spot in my heart for the Old West, I've taken a personal interest in this collection. I never tire of holding these historic pioneer coins and letting my imagination romp through the wild and woolly saloons and ravines and mines of the Gold Rush times when they were a part of the daily scene.

I especially want to thank Dr. Rowe's charming and gracious wife, Marieli (fittingly pronounced "merrily") first of all for selecting Bowers and Merena to oversee the sale of this distinguished collection, and also for entertaining and enlightening us with her personal insights into one of numismatics most interesting and colorful celebrities.

While I'm passing out kudos, I want especially to thank our cataloguing team, headed by our Vice President of Numismatics, Mark Borckardt, senior numismatist with 14 years at Bowers and Merena, and including Ron Guth and Bob Leonard. Their contributions in carefully researching each coin, one by one, and painstakingly describing the significant details is the meat of this catalog.

There's a great deal to see and learn in this catalogue. I hope you will do more than casually thumb through it. I recommend that you to set aside some quality quiet time alone, away from tele-everythings, and give it a thorough read. I think you'll find it a treasure trove of useful and

fascinating information about this unique numismatic niche.

Naturally, I hope you'll be able to join us in Beverly Hills come September 14 to bid in person. But if you're unable to make it, you won't be left out. You can still take part by proxy and send in your bid ahead of time. Keep in mind, though, that time is of the essence! To ensure that it's properly recorded, we need to receive your bid soon. You can submit bids online ([www.bowersandmerena.com](http://www.bowersandmerena.com)), by fax, or mail.

We offer special bidding options for mail bidders. You can use our Maximum Expenditure service and One Lot Only options together or separately for the bidding strategy that works out best for you.

The day may come when you choose to be a seller rather than a buyer. When that day arrives, we hope you will keep Bowers and Merena Galleries top of mind and call us first. Please remember that most of the properties we handle are much more modest than the high profile auctions for which we're best known. You don't have to own a legendary collection to command our utmost respect and attentive service. The majority of consignments we handle are in a range from as little as \$10,000 up to around \$500,000.

Give us the opportunity to place your coins before the public in the professional light that will fetch the best price on your behalf. Call Mark Borckardt at 800-458-4646 to discuss how we can serve you.

All of us at Bowers and Merena Galleries wish you good fortune in finding the coins that appeal to you and look forward to serving you. We value your friendship and your patronage.



Paul Montgomery  
President, Bowers and Merena Galleries

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# OUR CONSIGNOR

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DR. JOHN WESTEL ROWE  
JAY ROE: "110% AT 100 MILES PER HOUR"



When numismatists speak of California gold, or "Calgold," the name that instantly springs to mind is "Jay Roe." Dr. John Westel Rowe stamped his imprint on numismatics, and the field of Calgold in particular, so indelibly that it became unnecessary to identify him by his formal name. Just mention "Jay Roe," and numismatists will know exactly who you mean.

Jay Roe's name has become inextricably linked to the numismatic niche called California Small Denomination Gold Pieces, also known as California Fractional Gold. The scholarly, ponderous names for this field of numismatics mask the rip-roaring excitement and romance that it was really all about – Gold Rush coins!

Though Jay Roe was a meticulous scientist and scholar, such was his passion for the Gold Rush and its artifacts that one could easily imagine him at water's edge working the sluices looking for the precious nuggets. Had he been born a century earlier, very likely he would have been right in the middle of it all. As it was, Jay applied his considerable energies and intellect to the systematic study of the myriad unique, infinitely interesting, often quirky coins that emerged to make commerce a little more convenient amid the chaos of the forty-niner days.

As David Bowers described him, "Jay loved California coins...scarcely a rarity got by him, and

today we are all the more fortunate that...his accumulated knowledge and his collection have provided the impetus and encouragement for Bob Leonard's ground-breaking new book on this fascinating field."

Bob Leonard described Jay as "the leading specialist in small California gold coins and related gold tokens." Leonard called Jay "an expert's expert" who was "always generous with his knowledge of fractional California gold." He notes that Jay Roe formed "the most complete collection of these pieces ever assembled, including the largest group of finest known specimens."

Jay Roe was not a man whose head was turned by his celebrity. He was driven by thirst for knowledge about his "lovely little gold coins" and modestly accepted the accolades of the numismatic community as a pleasant by-product of his passion. His friend and colleague Roger Rowell, a chemist who first got Jay interested in coins, was never surprised that Jay would rise from a novice coin collector to become one of its most respected scholars.

"When he started to study something, it was 110 percent at 100 miles per hour. That is the way Jay did everything...he researched old records, contacted collectors, and asked questions of anyone with any knowledge in the area. Coupled with his record-keeping skills, he amassed a large database, and his knowledge enabled him to recognize numerous types never before documented," Rowell wrote.

Jay's interest in Calgold inevitably led him deeply into the token area, which he also



researched and collected extensively. He became an expert in this field, too. He did much to solve and clear up some of the misunderstandings and apprehensions collectors had about the field. He had plans for a book that would shed considerable light on the token field, but then his health began to fail.

Jay Roe was what hip journalists these days call a "multihyphenate." That is, a person with multiple skills of note. Besides being an expert chemist – he was a world-famous natural products research chemist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service's Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin, for 30 years – and celebrated California gold numismatic guru, Jay was a licensed pilot and accomplished in numerous outdoor sports and hobbies.

He loved aviation. He was fascinated not only with airplanes and airships but with the history of how they came to be. He assembled an extensive collection of Zeppelin coins and other Zeppelin memorabilia – postcards, stamps, souvenirs, and the like – along with an outstanding collection of medals, including many of the best Goetz medals. This collection was also sold by Bowers & Merena, in 2002.

Jay combined his interest and curiosity as a chemist with his interest in coins to create a rare and beautiful collection of the metals used in the making of coins. He dug into the history books and minutely examined records dating back to antiquity. His collection grew to 24 metals he had identified as being used through the ages in the production of coins, including besides gold and silver such obscure elements as niobium and tantalum.

These specimens became the subject of a popular educational exhibit, "Metals in Numismatics."

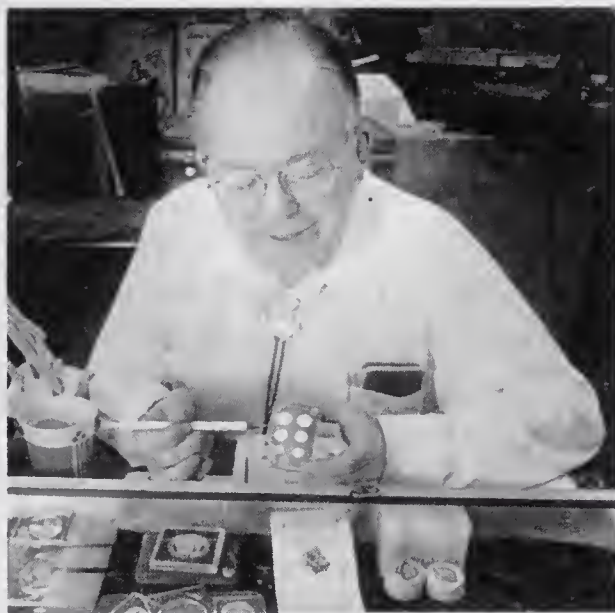
The exhibit revealed the chemical characteristics, history, and uses of each metal. Along with each metal specimen, he included the most interesting numismatic example he could find that showed the metal's actual use in a coin. The exhibit toured coin shows around the country, winning numerous awards, including "Best of Show" at the 1989 FUN show and the award Jay probably cherished most, the "People's Choice" award in Philadelphia.

Jay Roe moved easily and comfortably within the numismatic community, a likeable, respected, and always welcome presence at any gathering of collectors. He held membership in the American Numismatic Association, the Token and Medal Society, and the Society of Private and Pioneer Numismatics, among many other affiliations.

His accomplishments will be preserved in the newest edition of the Breen-Gillio book on California Small Denomination Gold, now published by Bowers and Merena with Bob Leonard as lead writer.

The life of Dr. John Westel Rowe reads as a tale of the quintessential overachiever. He seemed incapable of doing anything halfway. "Jack," to his family and friends, was born September 3, 1924, in Scarsdale, New York. Spending his early years in and around Scarsdale, he summered at his grandfather's wilderness island retreat on Stony Lake in Ontario, Canada.

It was the kind of place that fanned young imagination in an environment rich with the romance of rugged outdoor adventure. Undoubtedly, young Rowe's mind was also significantly influenced by his grandfather, an eminent U.S. Constitutional scholar and professor at Johns Hopkins University, as well as being an advisor to both the Chinese and Japanese governments. His grandfather represented China at the Geneva





Opium Conference in the early 1920s.

Jack finished high school in Scarsdale and joined the Navy during World War II. After the war, he studied at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, majoring in organic chemistry with a minor in geology. While at MIT, he became skilled as an alpinist, canoeist, mountain climber, sailor, and skier. He became president of MIT's celebrated Outing Club. He helped found MIT's Bridge Club. He cut a mean rug as an avid square dancer and greatly enjoyed the weekly shindigs at the famous Ralph Page New England Square Dances. And he took up flying.

He pursued graduate studies at the University of Colorado in Boulder. While there, he set it as his goal to climb every mountain peak in Colorado over 14,000 feet – 52 of them in all. He finished his Master's degree work there, but found the doctorate program not challenging enough and moved his Ph.D. studies to the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, known as the "Swiss MIT." Earning his Ph.D. in 1956, Jack settled into a long career as a research chemist for the Forest Service.

Of all the passions in his life, none was more precious to Jack Rowe than his family. Jack and Marieli met in 1947 on a Dartmouth College Outing Club weekend ski trip. Each of them was president of their respective Outing Club chapters – he at MIT and she at Swarthmore. The romance blossomed, and they were married June 26, 1949 in the chapel of the famous Riverside Church in New York City.

Their honeymoon lasted all summer. They climbed the Grand Tetons. They backpacked through the Canadian Rockies. In a sense, the honeymoon never ended, to hear Marieli tell it. "Throughout our 50 and one-half years together, it

was an exciting ride. We hiked, climbed (including the Matterhorn and Jack climbed a few that I didn't), skied, canoed, and traveled extensively both in the U.S. and abroad. Much of our out-of-doors life was spent with our three sons, and much of the travel was related to professional meetings and the like. There was always music and the arts. Jack loved opera. He had always been fascinated

by flying, and after we located to Madison, he finished his training and bought a plane. We became a flying family after that, and now two of our three sons are also pilots, both of them owning the same type of plane that Jack did."

Jack just couldn't help collecting things. All his life, he collected all kinds of things. Besides the usual things like stamps, he collected the unusual and offbeat, like his secret love: bolo ties. He owned

several hundred different examples of the colorful string ties commonly associated with the American Southwest. His goal was to collect 365—a different tie for every day of the year! But he didn't quite make it. He was also an insatiable collector of numismatics and exnumia relating to lighter-than-air travel, mainly zeppelins.

Jack's health began to fail, though, and he could no longer always run at 110% and 100 miles per hour. Always the organized, systematic perfectionist, he personally set about dispersing his collection a piece at a time, making sure that other collectors he knew would have great interest got the first opportunity to bid on the rarities in his collection.

Jay Roe...Jack...Dr. John Westel Rowe passed away at the age of 75 on February 15, 2000, of lymphoma. He left to his wife, his family, his friends, his scientific colleagues, and not least the numismatic community a rich legacy of warm and wonderful memories.





# THE SESSION

SUNDAY AFTERNOON

SEPTEMBER 14, 2003 1:00 PM SHARP

*California Small Denomination Gold: 1-610*

## CALIFORNIA SMALL DENOMINATION GOLD

### Choice Uncirculated 1853 Octagonal 25¢

BG-101, Low Rarity-5

Earliest Octagonal Quarter Dollar  
The Plate Coin For Breen-Gillio II



#### 1 1853 Octagonal 25¢. BG-101. Rarity-5-. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).

Plated in *California Pioneer Fractional Gold, Second Edition*. Bright and lustrous yellow gold with deeper tones and some prooflike reflectivity toward the rims. A positively choice example of what is thought to be the first Period I octagonal quarter minted for circulation in the heady days of the Gold Rush. The *S.S. Winfield Scott*, which sank off the coast of California on December 1, 1853, yielded five examples of BG-101 when it was discovered and salvaged in the early 1960s. An impressive beginning to our sale of the Jay Roe Collection, the most celebrated and important offering of California Small Denomination gold coinage ever to come to public auction.

**Maker:** Joseph Brothers.

**Weight:** 0.26 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.1 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Federal style head of Liberty to left, nine blob-like six-pointed stars around, star below truncation nearly touches neckline. Often seen with rust marks and raised die lines (Die States II, III, and IV).

**Reverse:** Beaded circle with fraction at top within circle, DOLLAR in an arc below fraction, date below denomination. Thin, pointed fraction bar, 4 sans serifs with pointy bottom. DOLLAR irregularly spaced with some letters leaning crazily. Date to left, 18 evenly spaced, 85 wider, 53 wider yet, 18 essentially even at their tops, 53 considerably lower than 18, 8 open and incomplete at its right side.

**Die State III.** Rusted, especially so on the obverse, with heavy raised die lines on both sides. Bridge of nose "broken" from heavy die polishing.

**PCGS Population:** 8; none finer.

*From Kagin's sale of October 1977, Lot 1141.*



#### 2 1853 Octagonal 25¢. BG-102. Rarity-4-. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).

Plated in *California Pioneer Fractional Gold, Second Edition*. Warm honey gold with some deeper lilac toning highlights. Strong underlying lustre. A decidedly fine example of the variety, especially so for the assigned grade.

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 0.22 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.1 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded. Reeding not visible over portions of the edge.

**Obverse:** Large head of Liberty to left, four six-pointed stars around, first star (nearest Liberty's chin) small in comparison to other three stars.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-101.

**Die State II.** Reverse reground, 8 weaker, raised circular defect around second L in DOLLAR.

**PCGS Population:** 11; 8 finer (all MS-63).

*Purchased from David Derzon, May 2, 1978.*

## Incredibly Rare 1854 Octagonal Quarter

BG-103, Rarity-8

The Kenneth W. Lee Specimen

Famous DOLLA Blunder Reverse

The Plate Coin For Breen-Gillio II



**3 1854 Octagonal 25¢. BG-103. Rarity-8. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS).** Plated in *California Pioneer Fractional Gold, Second Edition*. Deep gold with rich, deep olive highlights. Somewhat prooflike overall. Many would easily call this choice *Mint State*, but once the extreme rarity of the variety is factored in the grade is nearly irrelevant. One of only three pieces thought to exist, and one of those may be a duplicate listing! Regardless of whether *two or three* specimens are known, this variety is a grand rarity, and easily one of the highlights in the present offering. Here it is, only the third lot to cross the auction block, and the experts and aficionados in the series are treated to a major rarity. We suspect this lot will help set the tone of the entire event! Accompanied by Kenneth W. Lee's custom-made "little black box," itself a collector's item.

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 0.24 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.1 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-102, here with some traces of rust, and with die clash above Liberty's portrait.

**Reverse:** CALIFORNIA. GOLD. around, date below beaded circle, fraction and denomination within. Fraction bar just a tiny remnant at left, 4 tilts slightly left, denomination misspelled as DOLLA (no doubt poor planning and spacing on the die maker's part). D broadly repunched, DOLL tilt up to right, A lower. DOLL jumbled and touching, blending together in places, A spaced farther apart from other letters. Date with 1 and 4 high, 85 low, date numerals 1 and 4 apparently from same punches as fraction, 8 open at bottom, large 4 touches bead above.

**PCGS Population:** 1, 2 finer (MS-63 and MS-64).

*From Superior's sale of the Lee Collection, September 1988, Lot 3.*



**4 1854 Octagonal 25¢. BG-104. Rarity-4. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).** Plated in *California Pioneer Fractional Gold, Second Edition*. Deep olive gold mirrors support frosty yellow gold devices, especially so on the obverse where a stunning cameo contrast can be seen. What appears to be an obverse blemish at Liberty's profile is merely a small flake of plastic from the encapsulation process. Choice for the grade, and an altogether pleasing example of a variety that circulated during the early years of the California Gold Rush era. In fact, by 1860, an example of this variety had been added to the Mint's cabinet as an example of "California Coins."

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 0.28 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.1 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded; absent over portions of edge.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-103, now with noticeable crack from rim through first star, then to Liberty's neck.

**Reverse:** Beaded circle with fraction, denomination, and date within. No fraction bar. DOLLAR spaced as DO LL AR, D and O joined, O repunched (appears like a Q on the present specimen; this probably faded from the die shortly after production began), bottom of A, top of R repunched. Date slopes noticeably down to right, 1 distant, 854 evenly spaced, 4 strongly double-punched.

**PCGS Population:** 13; 25 finer (the finest being 2 in MS-66).

*From NASCA's sale of May 1979, Lot 3410.*





**5 1854 Octagonal 25¢. BG-105. Rarity-3. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

Plated in *California Pioneer Fractional Gold, Second Edition*. Deep yellow gold with reflective fields and frosty motifs. Definitely choice for the grade, a coin that holds up well under careful scrutiny. One of the plated issues; the present specimen was examined by X-ray fluorescence testing and found to have a core of 55% gold, 28% silver, and 17% copper (approximately 14 karat), with an outer plating of 86% gold, 11% copper, and 3% silver (approximately 20-21 karat). A nice example of the variety, one that is finer than many that have been offered in recent times.

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 0.26 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.2 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Head of Liberty (same as BG-102-104) to left, five five-pointed stars around. Heavy polishing of the head device has caused several large areas of reflectivity in her portrait and hair details.

**Reverse:** Beaded circle with fraction, denomination, and date within. No fraction bar. DOLLAR unevenly spaced horizontally and vertically. DO connected, an underlying O between the D and O, making that portion of the denomination resemble DOO (the underlying O probably faded from the die shortly after used for coining). DOLL nicely spaced, first L high, second L low, A higher, R lowest of all, crude and broken at top. Date directly below LAR, 185 widely spaced, 54 close.

**Die State II.** Heavily polished, areas around Liberty's eye, hair, and portions of her coronet have been polished from the die.

**PCGS Population:** 60; 19 finer (the finest being 3 in MS-66).

*Purchased from Marblehead Coin, July 22, 1988.*



**6 1855/4 Octagonal 25¢. BG-106. Rarity-3. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).**

Plated in *California Pioneer Fractional Gold, Second Edition* (to illustrate State II). Lustrous olive gold with bright and reflective fields and frosty motifs. A pleasing coin in all respects.

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 0.27 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.2 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Head of Liberty (same as BG-102-105) to left, four five-pointed stars around. Polishing of the head device has caused several large areas of reflectivity in her portrait and hair details, as in BG-105.

**Reverse:** Similar to BG-105. DO heavy and touching, first L just touches O, I.L. lean crazily to left, A smaller than other letters, R heavy and closed at top. Date numerals 185 evenly spaced, second 5 heavy and touching first 5.

**Die State II.** Heavily rusted obverse with many tiny raised die lumps from rust present on Liberty's portrait.

**PCGS Population:** 37; 39 finer (the finest being 2 in MS-66).

*Purchased from Kurt Krueger, April 11, 1983.*



**7 1856-FD Octagonal 25¢. BG-107. Rarity-4-. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State I). A bright and lustrous yellow gold coin, choice for the grade and laden with eye appeal. FD maker's mark now at top of coronet. Fields only lightly prooflike, imparting instead a satiny appearance overall. Check this one out under low magnification for a textbook example of mid-1850s die work on California Small Denomination gold coinage. One of the plated issues, with higher karat gold plating on a lesser karat gold core.

Here's the emission sequence for this series, based on our examination of each of the following varieties from the Rowe collection: BG-107, BG-704, BG-703A, BG-703, BG-701, BG-702, BG-706, BG-705, and BG-707.

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 0.23 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.3 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Head of Liberty (same as BG-102-106) to left, eight five-pointed stars around, maker's mark FD added to coronet. Later reused for BG-701.

**Reverse:** Beaded circle with fraction, denomination, and date within, all high in circle, and all heavy in appearance. Top of 1 in fraction joined to uppermost bead in circle. Date heavy (often mistaken for 1866), 18 nicely spaced, 85 wider, 56 touching. Later reused for BG-703A.

**Die State I.** Rusty obverse with many tiny raised die lumps present on Liberty's portrait, rust to a lesser degree in the fields on both sides. No clash marks present.

**PCGS Population:** 21; 2 finer (both MS-65).

*Purchased from New England Rare Coin Galleries, July 27, 1978.*



**8 1854 Octagonal 25¢. BG-108. Rarity-4-. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Lustrous olive gold with olive mirror fields and bright, frosty yellow motifs. Moderately scarce. Decidedly choice for the grade, with an abundance of eye appeal present as well.

**Maker:** Antoine Louis Nouizillet.

**Weight:** 0.28 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.6 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Federal-style head of Liberty to left, 11 six-pointed stars around, date below. Star 9 boldly repunched. Date numerals tall, nicely formed, and nicely spaced.

**Reverse:** Open wreath, four pairs of trefoils each side, three pairs of berries each side. Fraction at top, DOL. In center of wreath. Tiny triangular bow at bottom of wreath, double ribbon ends on both side of bow. Horizontal and vertical die cracks present at denomination.

**PCGS Population:** 12; 2 finer (both MS-65).

*Purchased at the FUN (Florida United Numismatists) show from an unnamed seller, January 12, 1988.*





**9 1854 Octagonal 25¢. BG-109. Rarity-5+. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A beauty in all respects, sharply struck and choice for the grade. Bright yellow gold with deeper tones in the reflective fields. The frosted motifs form a lovely cameo contrast. A fairly elusive variety that will see a strong round of bidding activity before it takes its rightful place in a cabinet of California Small Denomination gold coins.

**Maker:** Antoine Louis Nouizillet.

**Weight:** 0.28 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.7 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-108.

**Reverse:** Open wreath, five pairs of trefoils and five pairs of berries each side. Fraction at top, DOLLAR in center of wreath, LAR progressively lower from left to right, AR joined at bases, R joined to berry. Tiny rectangular bow at bottom of wreath, tiny dot at each corner of bow. Numerous raised die lines in field.

**PCGS Population:** 8; 1 finer (a single MS-65).

*From Pacific Coast Auction Galleries, Inc.'s sale of September 1982, Lot 1020.*



**10 1855 Octagonal 25¢. BG-110. Rarity-4+. Liberty Head. Net MS-60;**

lightly brushed. Still, sharp and engaging in appearance. Bright and lustrous olive gold with some deeper toning in the protected areas. Sharply struck from clashed dies. The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State IV).

**Maker:** Antoine Louis Nouizillet.

**Weight:** 0.26 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.7 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Same head as BG-108-109, 12 six-pointed stars around, innermost point of first star points to tip of bust, stars 6 and 9 touch dentils. Small crack projects into field from tip of coronet.

**Reverse:** Open wreath, five pairs of trefoils and five pairs of berries each side, the lowest pair on each side near bow. Fraction at top, DOLLAR in center of wreath, date below denomination. DOLLAR evenly spaced, LL lean slightly left, R leans slightly right, bases of AR connected. Date bold and sharp, evenly spaced, first 5 slightly lower than other numerals.

**Die State IV.** Clash marks on both sides, reverse die cracks from rim to wreath at 2:30 and 10:00, faint cracks forming at the fraction and elsewhere.

*Purchased from New England Rare Coin Galleries, May 27, 1977.*



**11 1856 Octagonal 25¢. BG-111. Rarity-3. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State I). Lustrous deep honey gold with deep orange highlights. Moderately prooflike in places but more satiny than reflective overall. A sharp and pleasing example of a variety that definitely circulated in the gold rush era; four examples of the variety were found in the treasure of the *S.S. Central America*, which went down in the Atlantic on September 12, 1857. Those four coins were probably in the personal belongings of passengers who were aboard during the ill-fated final passage of the steamer as she went to the briny deep; the passengers may have survived, but those tiny golden coins went to the bottom of the cruel Atlantic. A scarce die state (see notes below).

**Maker:** Antoine Louis Nouizillet.

**Weight:** 0.31 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.7 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-110, small crack at tip of coronet now stronger.

**Reverse:** Open wreath, seven pairs of small trefoils each side, 12 berries each side, three pairs at the bottom, then a single berry on the outside, then two more pairs, then a single berry at the tip of the branch. Fraction, denomination, and date all sharp and bold. D slightly low. DO spaced farther than other letters, both lean slightly left. Date slightly left, 6 smaller and higher than other numerals. All design details sharp.

**Die State I.** The earliest die state known. As noted in the new reference, nine separate die states are known for the present variety, most of them showing various signs of clash marks, polishing, rust, and die cracks. The present specimen is important in that none of the above die problems are present.

**PCGS Population:** 62; 41 finer.

*From NASCA's sale of May 1979, Lot 3416.*

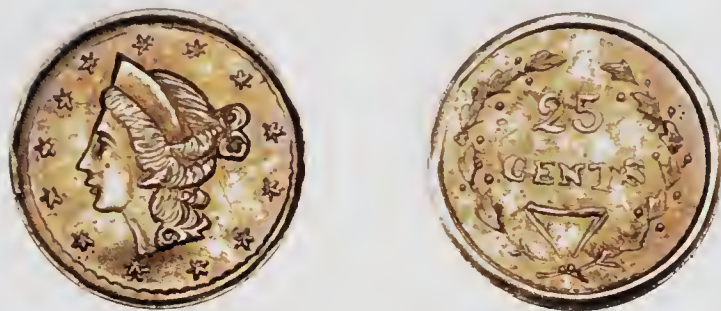


**Very Rare Undated Round 25¢**

BG-201, High Rarity-7

Joseph Bros., circa 1852-53

The First California Quarter Dollar



**12 Undated (1853) Round 25¢. BG-201. Rarity-7+. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Bright honey gold with deeper toning highlights. Nicely struck. Another prized rarity within the series, a variety with perhaps just *six* examples currently known, one of those slightly bent (the Texas Collection specimen), and another holed and plugged (ex Pine Tree, 10-11-76). At the time of our sale of the *Texas Collection*, the above-cited pair were the only two examples of the variety known to us; four more specimens have come to light since that time, including the present coin. This is the first gold quarter dollar made in the United States. One of the "stoppers" in the series; we suspect that serious specialists will come out in force in an effort to add this key to their California Small Denomination gold collection.

**Maker:** Joseph Brothers.

**Weight:** 0.31 grams.

**Diameter:** 10.0 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Federal-style head of Liberty to left, 13 six-pointed stars around; the star punch has a broken point, and one point of each star is small and stubby as a result. Star 1 broadly double-punched and connected to tip of Liberty's bust, stars 4 and 8 also repunched. Raised die lines on Liberty's portrait, coronet, and in the fields.

**Reverse:** Crude, open wreath with spaces between some leaves, 8 berries left in four pairs, 9 berries right in four pairs plus a single, another pair (apparently berries, perhaps dots) at juncture of bow and wreath. Denomination as 25 in wreath, CENTS below, 2 slightly lower than 5, CENTS crude and uneven, letters askew from each other, S small and high. Large, crude triangular bow at bottom.

**PCGS Population:** 1; 2 finer (both MS-63). To date, PCGS has graded only 3 examples in all grades.

*Purchased from Bernard Brandstater, May 14, 1987.*

**Rare Undated Round Liberty Head 25 Cents**

BG-202, High Rarity 6

Joseph Bros., circa 1852-53

The Lee Specimen



**13 Undated (1853) Round 25¢. BG-202. Rarity-6+. Liberty Head. MS-61 (PCGS).** Plated in *California Pioneer Fractional Gold, Second Edition*. Highly lustrous and fully brilliant olive gold with some yellow highlights. As sharp and attractive as it is rare! One of just over a dozen examples of the variety known. Another splendid opportunity to obtain a very rare Period I type coin with just one bid—but be prepared to make it a strong one! Accompanied by Lee's "little black box."

**Maker:** Joseph Brothers.

**Weight:** 0.27 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.9 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-201.

**Reverse:** Crude, open wreath with spaces between some leaves, left wreath end higher than right end, 12 berries left in six pairs, 10 berries right in five pairs. Denomination as 25 in wreath, numerals widely spaced, 5 broadly repunched and noticeably lower, CENTS below, crude letters but fairly evenly placed, C and N noticeably repunched, S "broken" at bottom. Small, rounded triangular bow at bottom. Some circular scribe mark remnants present at the outer edge of the wreath from 3:00 to 6:00.

**PCGS Population:** 2; 5 finer (the best being 4 in MS-63). To date, PCGS has graded only 8 examples of this date.

*Purchased from Jim Dalzell, May 18, 1990; ex Superior's sale of the Lee Collection, September 1988, Lot 15.*

**Rare Undated Round Quarter**  
**BG-203, Rarity-6**  
**Plate Coin for the Second edition of Breen-Gillio**



**14 Undated (1852-53) Round 25¢. BG-203. Rarity-6. Liberty Head. MS-61 (PCGS).** Deep and satiny honey gold with strong lustre and rich rose iridescence. Another rarity from Period I, this made even more desirable by its outstanding aesthetic appeal. We expect a round of hearty bidding for the present lot, so don't shy away from this opportunity-it may be some time before its equal is offered in the numismatic marketplace.

**Maker:** Joseph Brothers.

**Weight:** 0.31 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.9 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Similar to BG-201, 12 six-pointed stars, stars from same broken punch. First star touches squared tip of Liberty's bust

**Reverse:** Open wreath, six pairs of trefoils per side, 5 berries on stems to left, all inside wreath, 9 berries right, four pairs plus a single. Denomination as fraction in wreath, horizontal fraction bar, 1 to left of 4 in fraction, 4 large and tall. DOLLAR below fraction, DO widely spaced, LL close, LAR nicely spaced, D tilts noticeably left, LL touch at bases, second L repunched, A low, foot of R touches leaf. Small, heart-shaped double looped bow, a tiny pellet to each side of top of loops. Beaded circle between flat rim and wreath.

**Die State I.** "Perfect dies." Traces of the State II crack are visible.

PCGS Population Report: 1; 12 finer (the best being an amazing MS-65).

*From Superior's sale of October 1977, Lot 497.*

**"1/4 DOLL." Variety**



**15 Undated (1853) Round 25¢. BG-204. Rarity-5. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Satiny deep yellow surfaces show strong lustre and lively olive highlights. Sharp and attractive with no shortage of eye appeal. The only Period I piece with the denomination as DOLL. An example of BG-204 was found in the wreck of the *S.S. Winfield Scott* by diver Cliff Croft (again, proof that these circulated in the Gold Rush-the *S.S. Winfield Scott* sank in December 1853). Perhaps not a *classic* rarity in the truest sense of the word, but still extremely scarce and certain to cause a stir among bidders when it crosses the auction block.

**Maker:** Joseph Brothers.

**Weight:** 0.28 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.7 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-203, here with die crack from rim through star 7.

**Reverse:** Open wreath, six pairs of trefoils per side, 1 berry per side, at bottom, inside near bow. Right top of wreath higher than left top. Six-pointed star at top of wreath, denomination as fraction in wreath, diagonal fraction bar. DOLL. below fraction, DOL widely spaced, O low and broadly repunched, LL close, second L also low. Rounded triangular bow slightly left of center.

PCGS Population: 7; 1 finer (a single MS-64).

*Purchased from New England Rare Coin Gallery, February 1, 1978.*



## Nearly Unique Round Liberty Quarter

BG-204B, Rarity-8

One of Two Specimens Known

The Discovery Piece



**16 Undated (1852-53) Round 25¢. BG-204B. Rarity-8. Liberty Head. Net MS-60;** finer but edge faintly filed at top of obverse. The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Lustrous yellow gold with satiny, matte-like obverse and slightly reflective reverse. One of the great rarities in the series, a variety first discovered by Walter Breen during his cataloguing of the Clarke Collection for *New Netherlands* (1956), then "re-discovered" by Jay Roe in 1989. A definite highlight of the Jay Roe Collection, and a piece that will certainly be a focal point in its new owner's collection. It probably won't serve much purpose to wait for *another* example of BG-204B to enter the numismatic marketplace, so we suggest you pursue this specimen tenaciously when the bidding activity begins!

**Maker:** Joseph Brothers.

**Weight:** 0.32 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.9 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-204.

**Reverse:** Scant, open wreath, 11 berries left, 10 right. Six-pointed star between ends of wreath at top, fraction below. 1 of fraction to left of star above, long diagonal fraction bar. DOLLAR below fraction, letters evenly spaced, berry directly below upright of D, right foot of R broken off. Faint die crack from rim at 10:00 to berry. Round bow at bottom; what may be an engraver's slip at the bottom of the right wreath stem extends into the bow, imparting a crescent moon-like line to the inside of the bow. Rough, raised line inside rim encircles wreath (remnants of beaded circle design?).

No examples of this variety have been graded by PCGS.

*From Mid-American Rare Coin Auctions, Inc.'s sale of May 1989, Lot 1696; ex New Netherlands sale of the Clarke Collection, April 1956, Lot 493; T. James Clarke, Jamestown, New York (collected circa 1927-1952).*

## Unique Undated Round Quarter Dollar

BG-204C, Unique

Jay Roe's Discovery Specimen

First Auction Appearance



**17 Undated (1853) Round 25¢. BG-204C. Unique. Liberty Head. Net AU-50,** skillfully holed and plugged at top of obverse, lightly polished as well. The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Bright yellow gold with a touch of olive toning. Still quite attractive, all things considered. Literally as rare as a variety can get—this one is *unique!* Discovered by Jay Roe in February 1993, and still unique a decade later; not another specimen has even been rumored to exist to the best of our knowledge. We can sense the specialists queueing up to bid for the present coin, but as with contests of nearly every sort, only one happy specialist will be able to add their name to the pedigree for this illustrious, unique rarity.

**Maker:** Joseph Brothers.

**Weight:** 0.28 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.8 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-204.

**Reverse:** Scanty wreath, seven trefoils per branch, 13 berries per branch, six pairs plus a single. Fraction at top, 1 leans crazily to right and is attached to leaf, long diagonal fraction bar with sharply pointed lower end, 4 large and ungainly, also leans to right. Denomination as DOL with a small, six-pointed star preceding it, the only such appearance of the style in the series. DOL crudely shaped and unevenly spaced, O with raised die line at the center. Small, thin bow with V-shaped lines within.

No examples of this variety have been graded by PCGS.

*Purchased from Allen Stockton, February 23, 1993.*



**18 Undated (1853) Round 25¢. BG-205. Rarity-6. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Lustrous deep honey gold with strong rose and blue highlights. Sharp and attractive for the grade, an altogether pleasing example of a very scarce variety.

**Maker:** Joseph Brothers.

**Weight:** 0.30 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.8 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Federal-style head of Liberty to left, 12 six-pointed stars around (same broken star punch as used for BG-201-204), uppermost star attached to coronet point, lowest star high up in crook of truncation, one point touching hair.

**Reverse:** Scanty wreath, six trefoils left, five trefoils right. Berries four pairs left, three pairs right. Broken six-pointed star at top of wreath, fraction and denomination below, another broken star below denomination. Fraction numerator tilts heavily left, lower left serif virtually touches fraction bar. Fraction bar shows tiny nub at left end, forked at right end. Denominator heavy and tilted slightly right. DOLLAR slightly left but all letters bold, nicely formed and spaced, tail of R broken.

**Die State II.** Cud rim break at upper left of obverse.

**PCGS Population:** 3; 9 finer (the best being a single MS-64).

*Purchased from Edison Coin Co., New York, May 11, 1978.*





**19 Undated (1853) Round 25¢. BG-206. Rarity-4+. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS).** Plated in *California Pioneer Fractional Gold, Second Edition*. Rich honey gold with deep shades of rose and violet toning. Sharp and highly presentable for the assigned grade; just a touch of honest wear keeps this one from a much finer grade. One example of this variety was found on the wreck of the *S.S. Winfield Scott*.

**Maker:** Joseph Brothers.

**Weight:** 0.29 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.8 mm.

**Edge:** Plain. Described as "Plain Edge," however, light evidence of reeding is visible.

**Obverse:** Federal-style head of Liberty to left, 10 six-pointed stars around (same broken star punch as used for BG-201-205), four stars between Liberty's truncation and tip of coronet, first two stars mushy, star 4 points to hair just in front of coronet.

**Reverse:** Scanty wreath, five pairs of trefoils per side, berries 10 left, 9 right, left end of wreath higher than right. Star between wreath ends, fraction and DOLLAR below. Diagonal fraction bar, 1 short and stocky, close to star above, 4 large and shapely. DOLLAR low in wreath, thin and tenuous letters nicely spaced, D all but faded from die, nearly touches leaf, tail of R broken. Bow below thin and tenuous, essentially open at top.

**PCGS Population:** 7; 41 finer (the best being 9 in MS-64).

*From Kagin's sale of October 1977, Lot 1125.*



**20 Undated (1853) Round 25¢. BG-207. Rarity-5+. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Deep indigo and gun metal blue toning with golden high points on the obverse, somewhat less toning on the reverse. A lustrous specimen of a fairly scarce issue.

**Maker:** Joseph Brothers.

**Weight:** 0.29 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.8 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-206.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-205.

**PCGS Population:** 2; 16 finer (the finest is a single MS-65).

*From Stack's Coin Galleries sale of June 1979, Lot 1903.*

## Rare 1853 Joseph Bros. Round 25¢

BG-208, Rarity-7

The Plate Coin for the Second Edition of Breen-Gillio



**21 1853 Round 25¢. BG-208. Rarity-7. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).** An appealing blend of deep gold and bright olive gold intermingle on this lustrous little quarter dollar. The fields are somewhat prooflike and the devices are frosty, especially so on the obverse. Struck from heavily clashed dies. One of nine or fewer examples of this rare issue currently known; the new reference enumerates that many pieces, noting that the listing "probably contains duplication." The present coin is tied with one other for "Finest Known" honors.

**Maker:** Joseph Brothers.

**Weight:** 0.28 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.9 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-207.

**Reverse:** Scanty wreath with wide-open top, scattered "berries" and other "dots" on each side, fraction at top, DOLLAR below, date below denomination. Short fraction bar, small 1 centered above, larger, crude 4 to left end of bar. DOLLAR unevenly placed, D high, O lower, L higher, next L lower, A and R higher, LLA very close, the other letters wider apart, A apparently over a tiny O. Date numerals crude but well spaced, 853 slightly larger than 1, bottom of 5 repunched, flat-topped 3.

**PCGS Population:** 2; none finer. In total, PCGS has graded only 4 examples of this date.

*From Mid-American Rare Coin Auctions, Inc.'s sale of September 1984, Lot 1399.*



## Rare 1853 Round Quarter

**22 1853 Round 25¢. BG-209. Rarity-7-. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).**

Plated in *California Pioneer Fractional Gold, Second Edition*. Highly lustrous olive gold with frosty motifs and mirror fields uniting in a pleasing cameo manner. Another rarity from the Gold Rush era, the present coin being one of about 10 or so examples known; amazingly enough, *two* specimens of BG-209 were recovered from the wreck of the *S.S. Winfield Scott* (those two specimens represent about 20-25% of the known population of the variety)! Finest known of this rare variety is the Texas Collection specimen, with a few others trailing closely behind, including the present coin (what else would you expect from the Jay Roe Collection but highly competitive quality)? Herein lies another grand opportunity for specialists to go head-to-head for the right to add a beautiful rarity to their collection.

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 0.28 grams.

**Diameter:** 10.3 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Small federal-style head of Liberty to left, 10 small six-pointed stars around, stars 4 and 9 repunched. Numerous raised die polish lines in the field around Liberty. Large, rectangular hollow (from die polishing) on Liberty's neck below her ear, prominent raised horizontal die line with a circle attached below the hollow on Liberty's neck.

**Reverse:** Small, scanty wreath, wide-open at top, scattered "berries" and "dots" on each branch. Fraction at top, DOLLAR below, date below denomination. Short fraction bar, 1 centered above, crude repunched and reversed 4 below bar. DOLLAR fairly high in field, DO close, bottom of D touches wreath, other letters nicely spaced, second L slightly low, A slightly high, left leg of A shorter, left leg of R shorter, top of R repunched. Date low in field, numerals crude and child-like, 18 nicely spaced, 5 wide, 3 wide, 5 leans slightly left, round-topped 3 leans wildly right. Triple loop in bow, centers of loops resemble hearts.

**Die State II.** Obverse crack from rim at 1:00 to top of Liberty's head, faint reverse cracks rom rim to wreath at 2:00 and 5:00.

**PCGS Population:** 2; none finer. PCGS has graded only 7 examples of this variety.

*Purchased from David Doering, November 30, 1978.*

## Extremely Rare Round Quarter Dollar

BG-209B (Formerly BG-1308 or BG-214W)

Rarity-8, Two Specimens Known

**23 Undated (1853) Round 25¢. BG-209B. Rarity-8. Liberty Head. Net AU-50,**

tiny, natural rim flaw at 3:00 relative to the obverse. The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Lustrous yellow gold with some honey gold highlights. Another great rarity from the Jay Roe Collection of California Small Denomination gold, this being one of just *two* specimens known! Purchased by Jay Roe in 1987 in a coin shop in Texas. Listed in the first edition of the Breen-Gillio reference as BG-1308, later called BG-214W, now surmised to be from Period I due to the die link with BG-204B. However, the new reference cautions "Despite the die link to 204B, there is a strong possibility that a Period I die survived into Period III, and that this and 204A are late mulings, as suggested by Mike Locke." (Mike Locke is a California Small Denomination gold specialist who freely shared his findings and opinions with Bob Leonard during the research phase of the newest edition of the reference on the series). A great rarity that is missing from virtually every collection now currently being assembled, and incredibly desirable as such. Here is yet another Jay Roe coin that will almost certainly be the focus of a spirited bidding exchange, each bidder knowing full well that *not* taking this rarity home after this sale may mean *never again* having the opportunity to own an example of BG-209B!

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 0.38 grams.

**Diameter:** 10.0 mm.

**Edge:** Widely reeded.

**Obverse:** Large head of Liberty to left, 9 six-pointed stars around, the lowest star partially hidden by Liberty's bust, a circle of faint dentils is seen mid-way between the rim and the stars, with some stars touching the circle, a die crack runs from the rim at 12:30, through the uppermost star, then across Liberty's hair to her cheek, star 5 touches the back of Liberty's uppermost hairbun.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-204B.

PCGS has not yet graded any examples of this variety.

*Purchased from Dennis P. Carroll, April 9, 1987.*

## Rare 1853-FD Round Liberty 25¢

BG-210, Rarity-7

The Lee Specimen



24 1853-FD Round 25¢. BG-210. Rarity-7. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS). Deep yellow gold with strong lustre and decidedly deep olive toning. An attractive example of a prized rarity, a variety for which perhaps just nine or so specimens are known today. The new reference enumerates ten specimens, third finest of which is the present coin, suggesting that some may be duplicates. Alas, as with so many others of the Jay Roe coins, only one new owner will be able to fill the BG-210 "hole" in their collection, and we all know what it will take to be that new owner! Accompanied by Kenneth Lee's "little black box."

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 0.31 grams.

**Diameter:** 10.3 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Broad federal-style head of Liberty to left, 11 six-pointed stars around, maker's mark F.D. below bust, D weak, here resembling a crescent moon.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-209.

**PCGS Population:** 2; 1 finer (MS-63).

*From Superior's sale of the Lee Collection, September 1988, Lot 23.*

## Uncirculated 1853-FD 25¢ Rarity

BG-212, Low Rarity-7

Plate Coin for the Second Edition of Breen-Gillio



25 1853-FD Round 25¢. BG-212. Rarity-7-. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS). Bright yellow gold with olive highlights. A prooflike example of a rare variety; the new reference enumerates 11 examples of the issue, the present coin listed as second finest in that census-again, some of those listings may be duplications, as auction firms and others are not always so clear with their pedigree information. At the risk of sounding like a litany, we reiterate here that strong bidding competition will surround the present rarity, and only one lucky bidder will walk away completely satisfied!

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 0.28 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.8 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Broad federal-style head of Liberty to left, 13 six-pointed stars around, maker's mark F.D. below bust, back of F touches a star, bottom of D overlaps a star, stars 7, 8, and 9 repunched, heavy clash marks present, die crack runs from Liberty's cheek backward through her hair, terminating in her hair buns.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-208.

**PCGS Population:** 2; none finer. PCGS has graded only 6 examples of this variety.

*From Heritage's sale of May 1990, Lot 2261.*



## Unique 1853 Round Quarter Dollar

BG-213

The Lee Specimen



**26 1853 Round 25¢. BG-213. Unique. Liberty Head. Net VF-30;** sharpness and appeal much finer, but "HA" scratched below Liberty's bust, another scratch at her chin. The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. One of several *unique* varieties in the Jay Roe Collection, and a coin that will certainly have no trouble finding its way into an advanced California Small Denomination gold collection, graffiti and all. This variety was known to Ed Lee by 1932, and no duplicate has appeared in the intervening 71 years. Acquired by Jay Rowe from the sale of the Lee collection 14 years ago. A splendid opportunity to add your cachet to this short but illustrious pedigree. We'd like to add much more commentary here, but the simple word "unique" pretty much says it all! Accompanied by Lee's "little black box."

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 0.36 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.9 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Broad federal-style head of Liberty to left, 13 six-pointed stars around, all of them touching or blending into the plain rim (no dentils).

**Reverse:** Small, open-top wreath, five sets of triple leaves and 9 berries per branch. Fraction, DOLLAR, and date within wreath, 1 at right end of fraction bar. DOLLAR central, DOL progressively higher, LAR progressively lower, R nearly touching leaf. Date high, lower left serif of 1 points directly at berry, 185 evenly spaced, 53 close, nearly touching, flat-topped 3.

PCGS has not yet graded any examples of this variety.

*From Superior's sale of the Lee Collection, September 1988, Lot 25.*

## 1853 Period I Round Quarter Rarity

BG-214, Low Rarity-7 Choice Mint State

Plate Coin for the Second Edition of Breen-Gillio



**27 1853 Round 25¢. BG-214. Rarity-7-. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).** The "Largest Head" Variety. Bright yellow gold with rich olive highlights. Lustrous and sharp, and undeniably choice for the assigned grade. Fully prooflike and essentially as nice as can be found for this highly elusive rarity. One of the varieties with high karat gold plating on a lower karat solid core. The present specimen is listed in the third slot on the roster of known examples of the variety in the new edition of the Breen-Gillio reference; of the 14 specimens enumerated, one is holed. As usual, Jay Roe's penchant for quality is reflected in the present piece. A splendid opportunity to add a beautiful specimen of a rare variety to your cabinet. PCGS has graded only 5 examples of this variety.

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 0.33 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.7 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Large, artistically rendered federal style head of Liberty to left, 13 six-pointed stars around, stars 4, 7, 8, and 13 touch sharply pointed dentils. All obverse devices show signs of die rust.

**Reverse:** Small, scanty wreath, leaves five sets left, six sets right, right end of wreath noticeably higher than left end, berries 7 left (possibly 8, an extraneous mark may be a berry), 7 right (perhaps 9, same comment). Fraction high and to left, numerator above wreath ends, thin, short fraction bar, 4 dramatically repunched, fraction appears like 1/44. DOLLAR above center, DOL on same bottom line, DO lean slightly right, L leans left, LAR progressively lower in the die, l leans left. A nearly upright, R leans left and is much lower than any other letter, berry points directly to foot of R. Date low and curved, all numerals widely spaced, 1 nearly lying on its back, 8 slightly left of bow and tilted right, 5 tilted left, 3 nearly on its face. Rounded bow with heart-shaped interior, mustache-like ribbon below bow.

**PCGS Population:** 3; 1 finer (MS-64).

*Purchased from Bob Steinberg, July 18, 1979.*

**Rare 1853 Round Quarter Dollar**  
**BG-215, Low Rarity-7**  
**The Discovery Specimen**  
**Plate Coin for the Second Edition of Breen-Gillio**



**28 1853 Round 25¢. BG-215. Rarity-7-. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).** Deep yellow gold with lively olive highlights on frosty motifs and mirror fields. A rare variety that was first described by Jay Roe in 1978; in fact, this is the discovery piece. In the ensuing 25 years about a dozen or so specimens have been reported, most of them of lesser quality than the present *discovery* specimen, and one of those holed. Yet another rarity from Period I, a coin that will certainly garner its own fair share of the bidding activity when it makes its appearance on the auction block.

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 0.31 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.8 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-214.

**Reverse:** Small open-topped wreath, six leaf groups each side, berries 5 left, 7 right (reground state of die, see below). Fraction at top, denomination below, widely curved date below denomination. Fraction bar small and thin, tilts to right, left edge of 1 and right edge of 4 in line, thin 4 has barely any bottom support and leans crazily left. DOLLAR above center, DO on same line, LLAR progressively lower, LL tilt noticeably left, A filled, R lowest, foot near berry. Date on large curve, 1 and 8 widely spaced, 8 completely over and nearly touches bow, 85 wider yet, 53 evenly spaced.

**Die State:** I. Evidence of a retained cud is visible at top of reverse.

**PCGS Population:** 2; 3 finer (all in MS-63). PCGS has graded only 7 examples of this variety.

*Purchased from Tom's Coins, Littleton, Massachusetts, March 25, 1978.*

**Rare 1854 Round 25¢**  
**BG-216, Rarity-6**  
**Plate Coin for the Second Edition of Breen-Gillio**



**29 1854 Round 25¢. BG-216. Rarity-6. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).** Rich, deep yellow gold with some orange and olive highlights. Prooflike, especially so on the obverse. A rare variety despite knowledge of same that dates back at least to W. Elliot Woodward's sale of April 28-May 1, 1863, Lot 398, a specimen that was listed as "pierced." The present specimen probably ranks among the finest known examples of the variety and is tied with one other piece for top honors at PCGS.

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 0.27 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.6 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-214, here heavily reground to work out rust, several obverse stars small and fragmented, uppermost star nearly obliterated as a result.

**Reverse:** Small fragmented wreath, five leaf groups each side, berries 9 left, 8 right. Fraction at top, denomination below, date below denomination. No fraction bar, 1 directly over 4. DOLLAR above center, all letters essentially even at bottoms save for R which is low. Date slightly left, numerals fairly evenly spaced, 85 a little wider than others. Bow thin and attenuated, open at top, other letters and numerals weak in places as well.

**Die State:** I. Polished, usually prooflike, rust heavy on portrait.

**PCGS Population:** 2; none finer.

*From Kagin's sale of May 1978.*



**Very Rare 1853-GG Round 25¢**

BG-217, High Rarity-7

Probably *Finest Known* of Variety

**30 1853-GG Round 25¢. BG-217. Rarity-7+. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).** Plated in *California Pioneer Fractional Gold, Second Edition*. An outstanding bright yellow gold specimen of this rare and important variety, wholly prooflike and a definite treat to the observer's eye. Perhaps the *finest known* example of the die pair—certainly the finest enumerated in the census listing in the new edition of the Breen-Gillio reference. Though Jay Roe thought of the GG issues as patterns, an example of BG-217 was found in the wreck of the *S.S. Winfield Scott*, which shows that even if a *pattern*, this particular variety saw some circulation. Yet another rarity that will see a spate of brisk bidding before it takes its place in an advanced California Small Denomination gold coin collection. Our prediction: the present coin will be a shining star, a focal point of interest in its new cabinet!

**Maker:** Gaime, Guillemot & Co. (by Frontier, Deviercy & Co.).

**Weight:** 0.32 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.7 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Large federal-style head of Liberty to left, 13 well-formed six-pointed stars around, star 3 has two points toward Liberty's nose, uppermost star with one point toward the top of Liberty's head, maker's mark G.G. below bust, second G tilted right in comparison to first G, point of star 11 points directly at period after second G, point of star 12 points directly to bottom of second G.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-213, here repolished, reworked, and strengthened in areas.

**Die State:** I. Double-punched 8 plainly visible.

**PCGS Population:** 2; none finer. In total, PCGS has graded only 5 examples of this variety.

*From Heritage's sale of December 1984, Lot 294.*

**Unique 1853-GG Round Quarter**

BG-217-A, Unique

Ex Norweb and Texas Collections

The Discovery Specimen



**31 1853-GG Round 25¢. BG-217A. Unique. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Deep yellow gold with definite olive highlights. A natural obverse planchet flaw, as produced, runs horizontally near and at Liberty's neck; this flaw heightens the historical appeal, giving as it does an insight into the technology of the day. A great rarity, a *unique* coin that has not seen its like surface in the 16 years since Mike Brownlee first discovered the variety in our sale of the Norweb Collection (Part I, October 1987:1012), where it was mistakenly called BG-217 (see below for similarities). Certainly one of the most *exciting* coins in the Roe Collection, the *unique* BG-217A offered here will long be remembered as a focal point of the Jay Roe Collection! Norweb, Brownlee, and Roe - will your name be the next to join this illustrious roster?

**Maker:** Gaime, Guillemot & Co. (by Frontier, Deviercy & Co.).

**Weight:** 0.35 grams.

**Diameter:** 10.1 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Similar to BG-217. Here star 3 has one point toward nose, uppermost star with two points toward top of Liberty's head, maker's mark G.G. below bust, second G tilted right in comparison to first G, point of star 11 points below period after second G, point of star 12 points to back curve of second G.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-217.

PCGS has not yet graded any examples of this variety.

*From our sale of the Texas Collection, January 1992, Lot 4142; formerly in our sale of the Norweb Collection, October 1987, Lot 1012.*

## 1853-GG Round Liberty 25¢ Rarity BG-218, Rarity-7



**32 1853-GG Round 25¢. BG-218. Rarity-7. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).** Plated in *California Pioneer Fractional Gold, Second Edition*. Lustrous olive gold with prooflike reflectivity and strong eye appeal. An impressive coin for the grade, with only a few stray marks seen on either side. A prominent rarity, with only nine recorded specimens. The rarity of the present variety is reflected in the fact that the Lee, Club Cal Neva, and Texas Collections all were sorely lacking where BG-218 is concerned (in all fairness, practically *all* great collections of California Small Denomination gold coins are lacking a specimen of BG-218!). Another grand opportunity courtesy of the Jay Roe Collection.

**Maker:** Gaime, Guillemot & Co. (by Frontier, Deviercy & Co.).

**Weight:** 0.32 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.8 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-217.

**Reverse:** Open-top wreath, five sets of triple leaves per side, berries 10 left, 9 right. Fraction at top, denomination below, date below denomination. Fraction bar tilted right, 1 central above, 4 far to left below. DOLLAR central, D small and far from O, OLLAR evenly spaced, O repunched, tail of R virtually touches tip of leaf. Date closer to right wreath stem than to left, 1 awkward and top-heavy, both loops of small 8 open, 5 large, weak at bottom, round-topped 3 largest of all.

**PCGS Population:** 6; none finer. PCGS has graded only 7 examples of this variety, some of which are likely to be duplications of the same coin tying to make the MS-63 grade.

*Presumed to be from Heritage's sale of August 1994, Lot 7966.*

## Another Rare 1853-GG Round \$1/4 BG-219, Low Rarity-7



**33 1853-GG Round 25¢. BG-219. Rarity-7-. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).** Plated in *California Pioneer Fractional Gold, Second Edition*. Bright yellow gold with definite olive highlights. Prooflike fields add to the overall appeal. One of a dozen examples of the variety enumerated by Bob Leonard in the new Breen-Gillio reference, the present coin with claims to *finest known* honors for BG-219. At the time of our sale of the Texas Collection this variety was called High Rarity-7; a few more specimens have been located in the ensuing 13 years, but not enough to knock this variety from its overall Rarity-7 category. Another star in the memorable collection that Jay Roe formed over the course of two-plus decades, a coin that will evoke spirited bidding when its turn to shine comes!

**Maker:** Gaime, Guillemot & Co. (by Frontier, Deviercy & Co.).

**Weight:** 0.30 grams.

**Diameter:** 10.3 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Large head of Liberty to left, slightly left of center in the die, 13 six-pointed stars around, all stars with inner point toward Liberty's portrait, star 1 near tip of truncation, star 3 close to tip of nose, star 5 close to coronet and hair, star 12 point nearly touches second G and pointing to inner curve of that letter, first G leans noticeably left, no period between first and second G.

**Reverse:** Open-top wreath, five sets of triple leaves per side, berries 9 left, 10 right. Fraction at top, denomination below, date below denomination. Fraction bar short and straight, 1 slightly left of center, 4 slightly farther left. DOLLAR central, D small and far from O, O round, repunching shows within, OLL nicely spaced, LA close, A repunched, R equidistant A and leaf. Date numerals evenly spaced, 1 slightly smaller than other numerals, top of 8 open, 5 boldly impressed, top of 3 weak and attenuated.

**PCGS Population:** 2; none finer. PCGS has graded only 5 examples of this variety.

*Purchased from Jim Dalzell, May 18, 1990; ex Lee:526.*



## Important 1854 Defiant Eagle 25 Cents Rarity BG-220, Rarity-7

Doering's "King of Fractional Gold"  
First Auction Appearance of This Specimen



**34 1854 Round 25¢. BG-220. Rarity-7. Defiant Eagle. MS-62 (PCGS).** Plated in *California Pioneer Fractional Gold, Second Edition*. Deep honey gold with strong lustre. Lightly shift double-struck, with a "shelf" outline to much of the design. A tiny iron pellet is embedded in the obverse field just below star 5, a ready diagnostic for the Jay Roe specimen of this great rarity. The present coin is crossing the auction block here for the first time ever! Attributed to M. Jordan of San Francisco, "Watchmaker and Jeweler," located at 130-1/2 Montgomery Street in that city, based mainly on the appearance of a remarkably similar eagle motif in his ads on page 157 of Baggett, Joseph & Co.'s *San Francisco Business Directory for the Year Commencing January 1, 1856*. The new Breen-Gillio reference calls this issue "The heaviest of the Period I quarters, containing close to full value of native California gold." X-ray fluorescence analysis of the present specimen showed a mix of 90% gold and 10% silver. This rare variety of Augustus Humbert, former U.S. Assayer of Gold and a familiar name to any and all who have ever had a love for private gold coinage of California circa 1849-1855. After Humbert's death in Paris in 1873, young Andrew C. Zabriskie purchased Humbert's collection en bloc from his estate. The first public notice of this type was in Henry Chapman's auction sale of June 3-4, 1909, Lots 410 and 411. A truly spectacular issue within the series, a coin that is incredibly distinctive in that it is one of the few designs in the series that *do not* incorporate Liberty or Indian head styles. Along with the slightly more available State Arms issue, the Defiant Eagle quarter dollar of 1854 remains one of the most exciting and desirable of any of the California Small Denomination issues. Ten specimens are mentioned in the second edition of Breen-Gillio. One, no. 10, is apparently a duplicate. Another, no. 8, was stolen ten years ago and has not been seen since. A third, no. 4, is impounded in the Smithsonian Institution. Four others – nos. 3, 5, and 9 – were last seen when sold at auction in the 1930s, '40s and '50s. Only this specimen, the O'Connor piece (no. 7), and an MS-64 offered at \$50,000 five years ago are positively known to be collectible. A key to collecting Period One small California gold by type.

**Maker:** M. Jordan

**Weight:** 0.38 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.5 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** "Defiant" eagle stands to left on torse (clump of ground), 13 six-pointed stars arc around, date below. Date numerals nicely formed and evenly spaced.

**Reverse:** Open-top wreath with three groups of leaves and 6 berries per branch, 25 above center, CENTS at center of wreath, 25 larger than denomination, numerals and CENTS all nicely formed and spaced.

**PCGS Population:** 1; 1 finer (MS-64). PCGS has graded only 2 examples of this variety.

*Purchased from Kurt Krueger, October 19, 1981.*





- 35 Undated (1853) Round 25¢. BG-221. Rarity-3. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS). Plated in *California Pioneer Fractional Gold, Second Edition*. Bright yellow gold with some olive highlights. Prooflike and sharply struck, a highly lustrous specimen that easily pushes the gem category, at least where eye appeal is concerned. One of the more readily available varieties among the Period I issues, yet still apt to cause a round of strong bidding participation owing to its extreme beauty and quality.

**Maker:** Antoine Louis Nouizillet.

**Weight:** 0.31 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.7 mm.

**Edge:** Widely reeded.

**Obverse:** Small federal-style head of Liberty to left, 11 six-pointed stars around, star 7 touches upper hair bun, several stars have raised die lines around them in the fields, apparently lengthy extensions of the dentils, a small tine protrudes into the field from the tip of the coronet.

**Reverse:** Open-top wreath with six groups of leaves and 6 pairs of berries per branch, fraction at top, denomination beneath fraction, star below denomination. Fraction bar long and thin, 1 framed by berries, 4 with large "comical" foot. DOLLAR nicely formed and spaced, D leans slightly left, berry nearly touches upper serif, LLA closer than other letters, berry opposite and close to upper loop of R. Six-pointed star between DOLLAR and bow.

**Die State I.** Perfect die, no cracks, elongated obverse dentils.

**PCGS Population:** 24; 2 finer (the best being a single MS-66).

*Purchased from Joe Flynn, July 22, 1977.*



- 36 Undated (1853) Round 25¢. BG-222. Rarity-2. Liberty Head. MS-65 (PCGS). Mistakenly illustrated as State III in the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A highly lustrous gem Mint State coin. Rich yellow gold with olive highlights and intense cameo contrast. Perhaps not the rarest coin in the Jay Roe Collection, but certainly one of the *prettiest* of his California gold pieces. Much rarer in this die state (see below) than the Rarity-2 rating for the variety suggests.

**Maker:** Antoine Louis Nouizillet.

**Weight:** 0.31 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.7 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-222.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-222.

**Die State IV:** Small crack at star 1 now a cud that covers a portion of the star, outermost points of star 10 filled; reverse cracks now heavy at top of wreath and other areas.

**PCGS Population:** 11; none finer.

*Purchased from Joe Flynn, November 17, 1977.*



- 37 Undated (1853) Round 25¢. BG-222. Rarity-2. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Lustrous yellow gold with heavy olive iridescence. Nicely struck. Two examples of this variety were recovered from the wreck of the *S.S. Winfield Scott*. One of the most readily available of *all* California Small Denomination gold issues, and a variety that makes a nice introduction to this fascinating series.

**Maker:** Antoine Louis Nouizillet.

**Weight:** 0.31 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.7 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Small federal-style head of Liberty to left, 12 six-pointed stars around, star 1 opposite point of bust and nearly touches dentil, a small tine protrudes into the field from the tip of the coronet.

**Reverse:** Open-top wreath with six groups of leaves and 5 pairs of berries per branch, wreath ends close to fraction at top, denomination beneath fraction, star below denomination. Fraction bar long and tapered at left end, 1 framed by leaves, 4 with large "comical" foot. DOLLAR nicely formed and tightly spaced, O high, LL slightly tilted to left, L and A touch, R slightly low, berry opposite top, another below right foot. Six-pointed star between DOLLAR and bow.

**Die State I.** Perfect dies without cracks.

**PCGS Population:** 104; 102 finer (the best being 11 in MS-65). According to the PCGS Population Report, they have graded more examples of this variety than any other, with the exception of BG-838.

*Purchased from New England Rare Coin Gallery, July 25, 1977.*



- 38 Undated (1853-54) Round 25¢. BG-223. Rarity-4-. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Bright yellow gold with deeper highlights on prooflike surfaces. Careful examination reveals the intense "hairlines" in the obverse field to be raised die polish marks. Another *S.S. Winfield Scott* variety; 10 examples of BG-223 were found in the now-famous (to California gold specialists, that is) wreckage of that 19th century ship.

**Maker:** Antoine Louis Nouizillet.

**Weight:** 0.28 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.6 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Small federal-style head of Liberty to left, 12 six-pointed stars around, star 1 attached to point of bust, stars 11 and 12 with small, "ragged" inner points.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-222.

**Die State I.** Heavy reverse cracks, lowest inner left berry barely visible.

**PCGS Population:** 28; 20 finer (finest is a single MS-66).

*Purchased from Joe Flynn, November 17, 1977.*





**39 Undated (1853-54) Round 25¢. BG-224. Rarity-3. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).** Plated in *California Pioneer Fractional Gold, Second Edition*. Lustrous, prooflike honey gold with yellow and olive highlights. Nicely struck. This variety was listed in Montroville Dickeson's *The American Numismatist Manual* (Philadelphia, 1859) on page 227 and Plate XVIII, 15, an early contemporary appearance of California Small Denomination gold coins.

**Maker:** Antoine Louis Nouizillet.

**Weight:** 0.26 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.6 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-223.

**Reverse:** Small open-topped wreath, five sets of triple leaves per side, 7 berries per side, three pairs plus a single. Fraction and denomination within wreath. Fraction bar long and thin, numerals nicely centered above and below. DOL unevenly spaced, D smaller than other letters, O nearer D than first L, LAR nicely spaced.

**Die State III.** Several light reverse die cracks from rim to wreath, another across the central field at DO to the leaves above R. Some of these are faint.

**PCGS Population:** 52; 23 finer (the best is a single MS-65).

*From Kagin's sale of October 31, 1977, Lot 1127.*

## Rare 1855 Round Quarter Dollar

BG-225, Low Rarity-7

Doering's Plate Coin



**40 1855 Round 25¢. BG-225. Rarity-7-. Liberty Head. MS-61 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Deep and satiny honey gold with lively lustre and rose iridescence. A small mark is noted on Liberty's neck, as could be expected for the assigned grade, but still quite attractive overall. One of a dozen specimens of this rarity listed by Bob Leonard in the new edition of the Breen-Gillio reference, a listing that probably includes some duplication. Over the years, Jay Roe has owned at least *three* different examples of this variety, finally settling on the present piece for his own collection. Another great rarity that will be forever connected to the present sale—don't miss this opportunity to own an important piece of numismatic history!

**Maker:** Antoine Louis Nouizillet.

**Weight:** 0.27 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.7 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded

**Obverse:** Small federal-style head of Liberty to left, 10 six-pointed stars around, star 7 close to upper hair bun. Die cracks at and between several stars, heaviest visible at star 4.

**Reverse:** Small open-top wreath, five sets of triple leaves and 9 berries per side. Fraction at top, DOLLAR below, date below denomination. Thin fraction bar separates nicely formed numerals. D smaller and lower than O which is also slightly low, LAR on even line and evenly spaced. Date numerals uneven, 1 tilts jauntily to right and is lower than 8 which tilts slightly to right, first 5 higher than 8 and upright, second 5 higher than all other numerals and tilts very slightly left. Several small cracks unite the rim to the wreath in various places, heaviest of these at 3:00, 5:00, and 9:00.

**PCGS Population:** 1; 5 finer (the best is a single MS-64). PCGS has graded only 6 examples of this variety.

*From Superior's sale of June 1985, Lot 1954.*



**41 1855 Round 25¢. BG-226. Rarity-5. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Highly lustrous, prooflike yellow gold with rich honey gold highlights toward the rims. A late die state (see below) and scarcer as such than the Rarity-5 rating suggests.

**Maker:** Antoine Louis Nouzillet.

**Weight:** 0.30 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.6 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Small federal-style head of Liberty to left, 10 six-pointed stars around, star 7 between hair buns, moderately closer to lower bun. Heavy die break at top of Liberty's head (see die state notes below), another at the tip of her bust. No beads on coronet.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-225, here heavily shattered.

**Die State II.** Heavy obverse break connects top of coronet with stars 5 and 6, another smaller break at tip of Liberty's bust. Reverse now heavily shattered with more and heavier cracks than noted when used for BG-225.

**PCGS Population:** 10; 4 finer (all in MS-64).

*Purchased from Kurt Krueger, April 11, 1983.*

### Scarce 1855 Round Quarter

Now BG-226A, Rarity-5

Formerly "BG-227A" or "BG-227W"

Also "BG-227, Die State II"



**42 1855 Round 25¢. BG-226A. Rarity-5. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Deep honey gold with warm lustre. A pleasing example of a moderately scarce and sometimes "confusing" variety. Various called BG-227A, BG-227W, and BG-227, Die State II, this variety has now been accorded the designation of BG-226A, a number which should "stick" for many years to come.

**Maker:** Antoine Louis Nouzillet.

**Weight:** 0.26 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.6 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Small federal-style head of Liberty to left, 10 six-pointed stars around, star 7 closer to lower hair bun. Eight beads on coronet.

**Reverse:** Small open-top wreath, five sets of triple leaves and four pairs of berries per side. Fraction at top, DOLLAR below, date below denomination. Short fraction bar, 1 tilted right, 4 tilted left. In DOLLAR, all letters lean slightly left save for the R, which leans noticeably right. Berry touches D, DO touch, DOL on same line, LL touch, LAR on same line, R widely spaced. Date unevenly spaced, 18 nicely spaced, 85 widely spaced, 55 close and considerably lower than 18. Die cracks from rim to wreath at 2:00, 6:00, and 9:00, with a prominent crack from the rim to the field left of the fraction numerator.

**Die State II.** "Broken" nose, bridge missing due to polishing of die, many raised die lines in the fields.

PCGS has not yet graded any examples of this variety. Put properly, they have not yet assigned this number to any of the coins they have graded, primarily because this is a brand new number. We suspect that some of the BG-227's certified by PCGS will turn out to be this slightly more common BG-226A.

*From Pacific Coast Auction Galleries, Inc.'s sale of September 1984, Lot 723.*





**43 1855 Round 25¢. BG-226A. Rarity-5. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (except under BG-227). Originally attributed as a BG-227, but have been assigned States I and II of BG-227 and assign them a new number, BG-226A. Thus, the correct attribution for the example we offer here is BG-226A. Deep honey gold with iridescent orange highlights. Nice for the grade, with just a hint of rub on the high points. A scarce variety in any and all die states; Die State I, as offered here, is by far the scarcest of the states. Ed Lee had an example of this variety in his collection as early as 1932. The present specimen was tested by X-ray fluorescence and found to be "solid native California gold," 88.6% gold, 6.9% silver, 4.5% other metal.

**Maker:** Antoine Louis Nouizillet.

**Weight:** 0.27 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.6 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Reworked obverse of BG-226A, several stars now repunched, nine beads on coronet.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-226A, here with heavier cracks.

**Die State I.** "Normal" nose.

**PCGS Population:** 10; 59 finer.

*From Kagin's sale of May 1978, Lot 1212.*

## Uncirculated 1855 Round Quarter

**BG-227, Rarity-6**

**Ex Virgil Brand Collection**



**44 1855 Round 25¢. BG-227. Rarity-6. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).**

Frosty yellow gold devices and honey gold fields. A pleasing example of the variety, here offering a later die state than that in the preceding lot. Once in the Virgil Brand Collection, then to Jay Roe, now to you - provided, of course, you provide the top bid for this tiny California treasure.

**Maker:** Antoine Louis Nouizillet.

**Weight:** 0.26 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.6 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Reworked obverse of BG-226A, several stars now repunched, nine beads on coronet. Heavy obverse die cracks beginning to make their presence known, first four beads a blur, appearing nearly as one elongated bead.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-226A, here with heavier cracks.

**Die State II.** "Normal" nose, heavier cracks on obverse and reverse.

*From our sale of the Brand Collection, June 1984, Lot 1567; ex B. Max Mehl's sale of June 11, 1910; Virgil Brand's inventory #52,619.*

## Rare 1856 Round 25¢

**BG-228, Rarity-7**

**Plate Coin for the Second Edition of Breen-Gillio**



**45 1856 Round 25¢. BG-228. Rarity-7. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).**

A lustrous cameo beauty with satiny yellow gold devices and deeply mirrored fields. Definitely choice, perhaps just a few hairlines from gem, but still a lovely specimen no matter where the grade falls! One of fewer than a dozen examples of the variety enumerated by Bob Leonard in the new edition of the Breen Gillio reference, the present coin being *third finest* on that list behind just the Texas Collection specimen sold by us in January 1992 (ex Lee Collection), and the Lawson Collection specimen (ex David Doering; Superior June 1985:1956). Another rarity from the Jay Roe Collection, a coin that will no doubt be a focal point in an advanced California Small Denomination gold collection once the dust settles from the anticipated round of heavy bidding this coin will no doubt engender.

**Maker:** Antoine Louis Nouizillet.

**Weight:** 0.30 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.7 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-226A, here repolished yet again.

**Reverse:** Small wreath, five sets of triple leaves per side, berries 8 per side, berry near R a tiny pinpoint. Fraction at top, denomination below, date below denomination. Short fraction bar, numerals nicely formed and centered. DOLLAR nicely spaced, D slightly smaller than other letters, R first punched higher, then repunched. Date nicely formed and evenly spaced, 6 a trifle higher than other numerals.

**Die State I.** Repolishing has weakened border dentils in places, cracks now nearly gone.

**PCGS Population:** 2; none finer. PCGS has graded only 4 examples of this variety.

*From Steve Ivy's sale of July 1979, Lot 1325.*





**46 1856 Round 25¢. BG-229. Rarity-4. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State I). Bright yellow gold with reflective fields and frosty motifs. Olive iridescence glows warmly in the recessed areas. One Thomas Alcock presented an example of BG-229 (though not attributed as such, of course) to the British Museum in September 1857. A readily available variety that will still see spirited bidding due to its extraordinary eye appeal (for the assigned grade, that is).

**Maker:** Antoine Louis Nouzillet.

**Weight:** 0.29 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.7 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-226A, here repolished yet again.

**Reverse:** Small wreath, five sets of triple leaves left, six sets right, berries probably 8 per side, count uncertain-several resemble leaf tips. Fraction at top, denomination below, date below denomination. Short, thin fraction bar, numerals nicely formed and centered, both well away from bar. DOLLAR nicely spaced, D slightly smaller than other letters, letters slightly higher at bases from left to right. Date numerals thin, 8 slightly higher than 1 and 5, 6 slightly higher than 5 and tilted slightly left.

**Die State IV:** Obverse shattered at stars 1, and 6 through 10 (Die State II in the first edition of Breen-Gillio).

**PCGS Population:** 35; 33 finer.

*Purchased from David Doering, April 17, 1978.*



**47 1856 Round 25¢. BG-230. Rarity-4-. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (incorrectly labeled State I). Lustrous deep yellow gold with underlying orange radiance. Prooflike with lively cameo contrast. Sharply struck. A definitely choice specimen, a piece that approaches gem quality in many respects.

**Maker:** Antoine Louis Nouzillet.

**Weight:** 0.25 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.7 mm.

**Edge:**

**Obverse:** Small federal-style head of Liberty to left, 12 six-pointed stars around, several stars with mis-matched points. Star 8 points directly to upper hair bun.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-229, here repolished with fraction bar now thin and tenuous.

**Die State II:** Obverse shows cracks on Liberty's portrait and in the field, though not yet shattered (as in State IV). Reverse with faint cracks and heavy rust marks but not yet shattered (as in State IV).

**PCGS Population:** 14; only 3 finer (all MS-65).

*From Kagin's sale of October 1977, Lot 1128.*

## Rare 1853-FD Octagonal 50¢ "Humbert" Eagle Reverse BG-301, Low Rarity-7



**48 1853-FD Octagonal 50¢. BG-301. Rarity-7-. Liberty Head. "Humbert" Eagle Reverse. AU-58 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Deep orange gold with strong lustre and rich red and violet iridescence on both sides. Somewhat prooflike, especially so on the obverse. The popular eagle reverse is seen here, which was no doubt modeled after the \$50 gold "slugs" coined by Augustus Humbert for circulation in the bawdy Barbary Coast area of California. A rarity, a design type that is eagerly sought by advanced specialists in the California Small Denomination gold discipline.

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 0.54 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.7 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Broad head of Liberty to left, 13 six-pointed stars around, F.D. below bust, F lightly repunched and tilted dramatically left, D tilted but less so, star 13 directly under D.

**Reverse:** CALIFORNIA GOLD arcs above eagle, FIFTY CENTS curves below, date between FIFTY and CENTS. C, first A, first I, F, and R of CALIFORNIA repunched, O of GOLD also repunched. Y in FIFTY repunched, 18 in date also repunched. Central eagle motif reminiscent of-and no doubt based on-the spread-winged eagle on the Humbert \$50 "slugs" of the era. Eagle with upspread wings, its left talons on olive branch and torse, right talons hold arrows and support shield, ribbon flows over and around wings and head of eagle.

**PCGS Population:** 2; 3 finer (the best is not much better at MS-62). PCGS has graded only 5 examples of this variety.

*From Harmer-Rooke's sale of September 1976, Lot 136; previously from our sale of the Abe Kosoff Collection, December 1985, Lot 937.*



**Popular 1853-FD Octagonal 50¢**  
**Small Eagle or "Peacock" Reverse**  
**Breen Gillio-302**



**49 1853-FD Octagonal 50¢. BG-302. Rarity-4-. Liberty Head. Small Eagle or "Peacock" reverse. MS-63 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Bright yellow gold with satiny devices and lightly mirrored fields. Delightful splashes of deep orange gold crowd the rims. A highly lustrous specimen of the famous "peacock" reverse half dollar, one of the most popular design types in the series. At least three examples of this variety were found in the wreckage of the *Winfield Scott*. Examples of this variety are frequently found lightly circulated; they were originally intended for circulation, and circulate they did. The present choice Mint State coin probably owes its survival to a souvenir seeker some 150 years ago!

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 0.53 grams.

**Diameter:** 10.8 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Broad head of Liberty to left, 13 six-pointed stars around, tip of truncation points to star 1, tip of coronet points to star 7, F.D. vertically behind bust in field, D weak at bottom and tilts left at top, 3 of date resembles an 8.

**Reverse:** CALIFORNIA GOLD. Arcs above eagle, 50. CENTS. Curves below. Fanciful eagle perches on arrow, wings outspread, rays behind (probably in imitation of the new federal-issue silver quarters and half dollars with rays around the reverse eagle that may have made their way to California in pocket change by the time this issue was struck) resemble a peacock's tailfeathers, hence the appellation "Peacock" reverse. Die mark in O of CALIFORNIA, final A repunched, T of CENTS also repunched at bottom. Eagle with six distinct tailfeathers, all of which point directly to 50.

**Die State I.** Perfect dies; clear repunching on 50 and T, extra outlines fade with die use (50 already faded on the present specimen).

**PCGS Population:** 23; 13 finer (the best are 2 in MS-65).

*\*Purchased from Kedzie Coins, July 6, 1985.*

**Another 1853-FD Octagonal 50¢ Rarity**  
**Small Eagle or "Peacock" Reverse**  
**Plate Coin for the Second Edition of Breen-Gillio**



**50 1853-FD Octagonal 50¢. BG-303. Rarity-7-. Liberty Head. MS-61 (PCGS).** Warm yellow gold with olive highlights. Lightly frosted motifs and mirrored fields form a pleasing cameo. Rare, one of just 13 examples of the variety enumerated by Bob Leonard in the new Breen-Gillio reference; in fact, the present piece is *third* on the list, making it a definite *Condition Census* specimen of the variety! Of that listing, nearly half of the coins are noted as cleaned or damaged, many of them having had loops removed-evidently this pretty little "peacock" design was irresistible as jewelry! The Matthew Adams Stickney collection (begun in earnest circa 1818 and ending with Stickney's death in 1894) had an example of this variety which was sold in 1907 by Henry Chapman; it too was looped for suspension. Quite plainly, interested bidders are herein presented with a grand opportunity to add a prominent rarity in an outstanding state of preservation to their collection. As with every other coin in the Rowe Collection, however, only one California Small Denomination gold collection can be enhanced by the present rarity.

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 0.53 grams.

**Diameter:** 10.8 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Broad head of Liberty to left, 10 six-pointed stars around, five stars before Liberty, five stars behind, F.D. above date, both letters tilted left, F incomplete at bottom and over space between 8 and 5, D faint and only vaguely present directly over 3 in date, 1 and 8 wide, 853 evenly spaced, 5 lower than 8 and tilted crazily left.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-302, doubling at 50 and T now gone from die.

**PCGS Population:** 2; only 1 finer (a single MS-62). PCGS has graded only 6 examples of this variety.

*From Superior's sale of the Heifetz Collection, October 1989, Lot 36; ex Kagin's Fixed Price List, 1979.*



**51 1853-FD Octagonal 50¢. BG-304. Rarity-5-. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Deep olive gold with reflective fields and frosty, textured devices (here the result of die rust). Rich orange gold toning is seen on both sides. A lustrous example of a moderately scarce variety.

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 0.52 grams.

**Diameter:** 10.7 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-303.

**Reverse:** CALIFORNIA. GOLD. Around a beaded circle, two six-pointed stars flank the 6:00 position below the beaded circle, fraction above DOLLAR within circle. In CALIFORNIA, L repunched, final I low, final A considerably lower and repunched at base. Tell-tale signs of die rust fully evident around GOLD. Fraction numerator above denominator, 1 much smaller than 2, no fraction bar. In DOLLAR, D repunched, second L repunched and connected to base of A.

**Die State II.** Heavy rust on portrait, moderate rust in fields.

**PCGS Population:** 14; 9 finer (the best is a single MS-64).

*From Kagin's sale of May 1978, Lot 1239.*



**52 1854 Octagonal 50¢. BG-305. Rarity-4-. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Highly lustrous olive gold with reflective fields and frosty motifs combining in strong cameo contrast. A lovely example of the design type as well as the assigned grade. This variety is typically found with a core of low-grade gold plated with a layer of high-grade gold.

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 0.55 grams.

**Diameter:** 10.8 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Broad head of Liberty to left, 9 six-pointed stars around, date below. Small date numerals, 1 spaced slightly farther than 854, 1 leans slightly left, 8 more so, 5 dramatically so, 4 of date apparently punched several times into die to strengthen the numeral, 4 now leans heavily right and is noticeably larger than the other numerals.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-304.

**Die State II.** Both dies polished to remove clash marks, though light traces remain.

**PCGS Population:** 8; 57 finer.

*Purchased from Edison Coin Co., New York City, May 11, 1978.*



**53 1854 Octagonal 50¢. BG-306. Rarity-4. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Lustrous honey gold with strong cameo contrast and a touch of olive iridescence. A truly gorgeous example of a moderately scarce variety, definitely a coin with plenty of "pizzaz" where eye appeal is concerned. Jay Roe's notes on this specific piece indicate "Seven micron thick layer, surfaces 76% gold, 21% copper; underneath 61% gold, 35 % copper."

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 0.49 grams.

**Diameter:** 10.8 mm.

**Edge:** Widely reeded.

**Obverse:** Broad head of Liberty to left, 10 five-pointed stars around, date below. Stars 1, 2, and 8 all widely repunched with many extra points the result. Date follows upward slant of Liberty's truncation, 1 and 8 widely spaced, 854 evenly spaced, numerals uniform in size, 4 nearly touches lowest hair curl.

**Reverse:** CALIFORNIA. GOLD. Around beaded circle, FD below, large five-pointed star between CALIFORNIA and GOLD, another between GOLD and FD. In CALIFORNIA, C distant, all other letters close, first A, I, E, O, N, and I all repunched, letters of GOLD widely spaced. In fraction, 1 and 2 nearly touch, no fraction bar between. In DOLLAR, D and O both repunched and overlapping, O resembles a Q, LAR widely spaced, long left foot to A, R tall and spindly, repunched as well.

**Die State I.** Early state, dies heavily polished, no crack yet at star 4 to coronet.

**PCGS Population:** 7; none finer.

*Purchased from Arlington Coin & Stamp, July 30, 1983.*



## Attractive 1856 Octagonal Liberty 50¢

BG-307, Rarity-5+

The Doering Plate Coin



**54 1854 Octagonal 50¢. BG-307. Rarity-5+. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Deep honey gold with strong lustre, decent cameo contrast, and a hint of pale olive iridescence. A truly attractive example of a fairly scarce variety. An example of BG-307 (though not identified as such, of course) appears on page 7 of *Peterson's Complete Coin Book* (Philadelphia, T.B. Peterson & Brothers, 1859) where it was called "current money" - though its value was listed as just *40 cents*.

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 0.42 grams.

**Diameter:** 10.7 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Broad head of Liberty to left, 13 five-pointed stars around, several with tiny blunt points or with points completely missing, final star broadly repunched, Liberty's ear a mere dot with a few curved lines around it.

**Reverse:** CALIFORNIA GOLD around a headed circle, letters mainly crude, small, and misshapen. Inside beaded circle shows fraction at top, DOLLAR below, date below denomination, five-pointed star below date. Top of 1 in fraction connected to bead above and 2 below, no fraction bar, bead to immediate left of 1 double punched, letters in DOLLAR crudely shaped and broken in places, D repunched, DO nearly touch, LAR distant from each other, AR nearly touch, R noticeably larger than A. Date numerals small and tenuous, 185 widely spaced, 56 closely spaced. Star below date high and close to date, not all points sharply struck.

**PCGS Population:** 5; 3 finer (the best is a single MS-65).

*From New England Rare Coin Gallery's sale of April 1981, Lot 221.*



**55 1854 Octagonal 50¢. BG-308. Rarity-4. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).** Plated in *California Pioneer Fractional Gold, Second Edition*. Intensely brilliant and lustrous olive gold with mirror fields and frosty motifs. A lovely example of a fairly "common" issue, but "lovely" is the operative word here! In the latest edition of the Breen-Gillio reference, editor Bob Leonard noted regarding the present variety that "Miner Jacob Brown mailed one to his sister Leah, wrapped in a piece of bluish paper inscribed 'Presented from your brother Jacob D.,' probably in 1854 or shortly thereafter (original letter lost); a family tradition noted by Jacob Brown's nephew Reuben E. Brown (1875-1941) stated that 'The gold of which [it is made] was mined by my Uncle Jacob Brown.' (This is unlikely to be true except in the broadest terms, i.e., that Jacob Brown paid for it with gold he mined himself.)"

**Maker:** Antoine Louis Nouizillet.

**Weight:** 0.52 grams.

**Diameter:** 10.9 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Small federal-style head of Liberty to left, 13 six-pointed stars around, point of coronet to star 5, star 13 below point of Liberty's bust.

**Reverse:** HALF DOL. CALIFORNIA GOLD N. (maker's mark "N" for Nouizillet) around an open-topped scanty wreath, five sets of triple leaves and eight berries each side, triangular bow at bottom of wreath. Six-pointed star at top between wreath ends, date central in wreath, numerals nicely spaced, long top to 1.

**PCGS Population:** 10; 4 finer (all MS-64).

*Purchased from George E. Abel, Sturgis, Michigan, December 15, 1978.*



**1855-N Octagonal Liberty 50¢**

BG-309, Low Rarity-5

Ex Art Kagin, Dr. French, T. James Clarke



**56 1855-N Octagonal 50¢. BG-309. Rarity-5-. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Highly lustrous yellow gold with a modest amount of cameo contrast present. One of the earliest known appearances of this variety was the Bangs, Merwin & Co. January 1863 sale of the Benjamin Haines Collection, a mere seven years after the variety was struck! An attractive coin with a storied history; this specimen once graced the collections of T. James Clarke, Dr. George P. French, and Art Kagin. Accompanied by a small custom-made box that was once the property of T. James Clarke, an "extra added attraction" where this lot is concerned!

Dr. Rowe's note card that accompanies this lot has the following notes written on the back: "There was a Dr. John W. French who was Director of the Bureau of Mines in 1936." This was written by Dr. Rowe, who evidently showed his cards to Walter Breen, who then wrote in his now-famous lavender felt-tip pen: "Not relevant. This was Dr. George P. French ('the jolly abortionist') customer of B. Max Mehl in 1920s." Breen then noted "This is from T. James Clarke who paid \$1.10."

**Maker:** Antoine Louis Nouizillet.

**Weight:** 0.53 grams.

**Diameter:** 10.9 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Large head of Liberty to left, 13 six-pointed stars around, coronet points between stars 5 and 6, closer to star 6.

**Reverse:** HALF DOL. CALIFORNIA GOLD N. (maker's mark "N" for Nouizillet) around a widely opened scanty wreath, five pairs of triple leaves and eight berries per side, F punch apparently broken and "fuzzy," D punch filled, five sets of triple leaves and eight berries each side, triangular bow at bottom of wreath. Date nicely centered, filled second 5 larger and lower than first 5.

**Die State II.** All cracks are visible, however, some are indistinct.

**PCGS Population:** 12; 7 finer (the best is a single MS-64).

*Purchased from Kagin's, Des Moines, Iowa, April 23, 1979; ex Art Kagin, Dr. French, T. James Clarke.*

**Rare 1856-N Octagonal Liberty 50¢**

BG-310, High Rarity-6

Plate Coin for the Second Edition of Breen-Gillio



**57 1856-N Octagonal 50¢. BG-310. Rarity-6+. Liberty Head. MS-61 (PCGS).** Rich and deep yellow gold with strong lustre and equally strong eye appeal for the assigned grade. A nicely struck and thoroughly pleasing example of a rare variety.

**Maker:** Antoine Louis Nouizillet.

**Weight:** 0.56 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.0 mm.

**Edge:** Widely reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-309, here repolished.

**Reverse:** HALF DOL. CALIFORNIA GOLD N. (maker's mark "N" for Nouizillet) around a widely opened scanty wreath, all letters well-formed and nicely spaced, five sets of triple leaves each side, eight berries left, 10 right, triangular bow at bottom of wreath, maker's mark N below bow. Date nicely centered.

**Die State II.** Reverse die crack from rim upward to bow, just grazing the upper right serif of the maker's mark.

**PCGS Population:** 2; 5 finer (the best are two in MS-64).

*Purchased from David Doering, November 30, 1978.*



**58 1856-N Octagonal 50¢. BG-311. Rarity-4-. Liberty Head. MS-60.** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Bright prooflike yellow gold with lightly frosted motifs forming a pleasing cameo. Technically choice Uncirculated, but with some reverse scratches noted in the date area. A great "entry level" or type coin, yet a piece with a history as wide and panoramic as any rarity within the series. In July 1871, the British Museum purchased an example of this variety from the firm of Lincoln & Sons.

**Maker:** Antoine Louis Nouizillet.

**Weight:** 0.60 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.0 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-309, here repolished.

**Reverse:** HALF DOL. CALIFORNIA GOLD N. (maker's mark "N" for Nouizillet) around an open-topped wreath, all letters well-formed and nicely spaced, L1 of CALIFORNIA very low, F low and tilted right, five sets of triple leaves each side, eight berries each side, small rectangular bow at bottom of wreath, maker's mark N below bow. Date nicely centered, 18 spaced evenly, 85 wide, 56 close.

**Die State I.** Perfect die, before obverse cud forms at star 4.

*Purchased from R. J. Wolfenbarger, New Jersey, April 12, 1978.*



**Lustrous Mint State 1852 Round Liberty 50¢**

BG-401, Rarity-3

Possibly the First California Small Denomination Issue



**59 1852 Round 50¢. BG-401. Rarity-3. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Rich golden yellow surfaces show strong lustre, modest cameo contrast, and a whisper of pale olive toning. The present variety vies with two others (BG-426 and -427, both round half dollars produced by Antoine Louis Nouizillet) for recognition as the very first of the California Small Denomination gold series to be struck and actually used in commerce. An example of this variety was found on the wreck of the *S.S. Winfield Scott* (lost at sea off California in December 1853, and recovered early 1960s) and one is also listed in Dickeson's *The American Numismatist Manual* (1859), and another can be found in Snowden's *A Description of Ancient and Modern Coins in the Cabinet Collection at the Mint of the United States* (1860). This variety (and the two others mentioned above) all fit the description of the California piece mentioned in the June 29, 1852 edition of the New Orleans *Daily Picayune*. A tiny treasure that should be high on the want list of every new entrant in the California Small Denomination gold field, as it is definitely a variety that is highly treasured for its historic import by every collector already established in the discipline.

**Maker:** Joseph Brothers.**Weight:****Diameter:** 11.2 mm.**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** "Narrow" or tiny federal-style head of Liberty to left, 13 six-pointed stars around, all shapely, well-formed, and well in from rim, coronet point between stars 5 and 6, closer to 5, tip of bust over left side of star 13.

**Reverse:** HALF DOL. CALIFORNIA GOLD. Around a small, thin wreath, four pairs of triple leaves per side, ten berries per side, laid out four pairs plus a single near the bow and another at the end of the branch on both sides, date numerals large and central, artistically formed.

**Die State I.** Perfect obverse die, "layout" lines still evident on reverse.**PCGS Population:** 21; 28 finer.*Purchased from David Bland, Jr., Austin, Texas, May 12, 1977.***Impressive 1853 Eagle Reverse 50¢ Rarity**

BG-402, Rarity-8

Finest of Just Two Specimens Known



**60 1853 Round 50¢. BG-402. Rarity-8. Liberty Head. Eagle reverse. MS-63 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. An enchanting deep honey gold example of a highly prized rarity within the series. The glowing fields are somewhat reflective while the well-struck devices display a modicum of texture. The Jay Roe specimen of BG-402, offered herein, is the finest of just *two* specimens of this rarity known to today's collectors; we predict it will cause quite a stir when it crosses the auction block! Truly an elusive numismatic entity, a tiny gold coin that is literally *rarer* than an 1804 Draped Bust dollar or an 1822 half eagle (and many other great American rarities that spring to mind as well). Acquisition of the present specimen will almost certainly bring another dedicated specialist one tiny step closer to completion of his or her California Small Denomination gold coinage collection. Be forewarned, however, that you probably won't be adding this coin to your collection without becoming embroiled in a fierce bidding conflict.

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.**Weight:** 0.76 grams.**Diameter:** 12.0 mm.**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Broad head of Liberty to left, 13 well-formed and sharp six-pointed stars around, stars 6, 7, and 11 repunched, tip of coronet points to right side of star 5.

**Reverse:** Central eagle motif with eagle perched on arrow, arrowhead points to D in DOL., no rays around eagle. CALIFORNIA GOLD. Arcs above eagle, HALF DOL. Curves below, date between HALF and DOL. First I in CALIFORNIA low and tilted to left, second I repunched at top, F of HALF repunched, all other letters in legends nicely formed and spaced. Date numerals nicely spaced, 8 small and low, 5 tilts slightly right, 3 tilts slightly left.

**PCGS Population:** 1; none finer. This is the only example graded by PCGS.

*From our sale of the Norweb Collection, October 1987, Lot 1027; Anthony Terranova.*

## Important 1854-FD Round Liberty 50¢

BG-403, Rarity-7

Plate Coin for the Second Edition of Breen-Gillio



**61 1854-FD Round 50¢. BG-403. Rarity-7. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).** Bright and lustrous deep honey gold with warm orange highlights. Frosty motifs and mirrored fields form a heavy and satisfying cameo contrast. Struck from lightly clashed dies, evidence of which can be seen at the date (where beads from Liberty's coronet make their appearance). Far and away the finest of just nine examples of the variety enumerated by Bob Leonard in the new edition of the Breen-Gillio reference. Of the nine pieces mentioned, one is plugged, and the reader is also cautioned that there may be some duplication in the listings. Just how many examples of BG-403 actually do exist? Perhaps nine is not accurate; it could literally be *fewer* than nine known as easily (perhaps more so) than *more* than nine specimens known. Either way, the present piece is definitely the finest known of the *known* specimens, and currently given a Rarity-7 rating. Those figures speak for themselves.

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 0.53 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.2 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Broad head of Liberty to left, 13 six-pointed stars around, star 2 repunched, star 12 with what is most likely the upright of an errant F from the maker's mark, FD, protruding from its bottom, Liberty's nose points at star 3, tip of coronet close to star 6. FD maker's mark below bust, letters closely spaced but bold and sharp, back of upright of F over rightmost points of star 13, innermost point of star 12 nearly touches curve of D.

**Reverse:** Scanty wreath, wide-open at top, six pairs of triple leaves and five pairs of berries per side, two large, delicate semi-circles make up the bow. Fraction between stem ends at top, DOLLAR below, date below that. No fraction bar, 1 over left side of 2, DOLLAR evenly spaced, second L slightly low, date with 18 widely spaced, 854 evenly spaced, 1 slightly higher than other numerals.

**PCGS Population:** 2; none finer. PCGS has graded only 6 examples of this variety.

*Purchased from Kagin's, Des Moines, Iowa, April 23, 1979.*

## Rare 1854-FD Round Liberty 50¢

BG-404, Low Rarity-7

Plate Coin for the Second Edition of Breen-Gillio



**62 1854-FD Round 50¢. BG-404. Rarity-7-. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).** Bright yellow gold with a high degree of lustre and a hint of attractive olive iridescence. Faint but appealing cameo contrast is present. A delightful example of a prominent rarity within the series, the present specimen being the second finest enumerated in Bob Leonard's census in the new Breen-Gillio reference. Of the 10 pieces given credence by Leonard, one is dented and another is holed; there may be duplication in the listing as well. All this highlights the present coin for exactly what it is - an outstanding opportunity for an alert specialist.

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 0.57 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.2 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-403, here repolished; die artifact at star 12 is definitely seen to be an errant F (see description at BG-403). Raised die polish lines on Liberty's portrait.

**Reverse:** Scanty wreath, wide-open at top, five pairs of triple leaves per side, berries six pairs left (plus an apparent berry between the stem and left loop of the bow), four groups of three on right (the only such appearance in the series), no fraction bar, 1 above left side of 2 and very close, DOLLAR at center, date below. DOL wider than LLAR, O slightly high, first L leans slightly left, left base of A repunched, R slightly low. Date nicely spaced, 8 slightly low, raised horizontal dash (an engraver's slip?) in field after date. Bow with two upper circles above the stem, and a lower crescent below the knot; the left half of the bow resembles a Valentine heart.

**PCGS Population:** 1; 1 finer (MS-64). PCGS has graded only 7 examples of this variety.

*From Pacific Coast Auction Gallery's sale of September 1983, Lot 1262.*





**63 1855-FD Round 50¢. BG-405. Rarity-5. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A high degree of lustre, noticeable cameo contrast, and rich olive toning on deep yellow gold surfaces. Only a hint of rose on the high points belies the lightly circulated status of the present piece. A modestly scarce issue that is popular owing to the placement of the maker's mark on Liberty's coronet, thus creating a distinct type for today's collectors

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 0.54 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.2 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Broad head of Liberty to left, FD::: on coronet, 12 six-pointed stars around, some with flat, uneven points, first star near tip of bust, a long "spike" (probably the result of an engraver's slip) protrudes from tip of bust into field.

**Reverse:** Scanty wreath wide open at top, five sets of triple leaves per side, five pairs of berries left, three pairs and a group of three right (plus perhaps a berry fragment in field at top outer right side). Fraction between wreath ends, DOLLAR below, date below denomination. No fraction bar, 1 centered above and very close to 2, DOLLAR fairly well-spaced, LL lean slightly left. Date numerals evenly spaced, all lean slightly left, 55 noticeably so. Bow composed of three crescents above the stems, an inverted crescent below the stems.

**Die State I.** "Spine" from end of bust, faint reverse crack from right rim to wreath.

**PCGS Population:** 11; 11 finer (the best is a single MS-65).

*Purchased from Kagin's, Des Moines, Iowa, April 23, 1979.*



**65 1852-DN Round 50¢. BG-407. Rarity-4. Liberty Head. AU-58. Lightly brushed at one time. The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Bright yellow gold with distinctive olive highlights and strong cameo contrast. BG-407 is a viable candidate for the "first ever" California Small Denomination gold issue, and is moderately important as such.**

**Maker:** "D.N." (Deriberpie & Nouzillet-hy Joseph Bros.?).

**Weight:** 0.64 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.2 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Small federal-style head of Liberty to left, 13 sharp and well-formed six-pointed stars around, star 1 even with tip of bust, star 13 below tip of bust, maker's mark D.N. below bust, letters and punctuation all widely spaced, D farther from truncation than N and leaning left, N more upright and just touching hair above.

**Reverse:** Scanty wreath open but fairly close at top, four sets of triple leaves and five pairs of berries plus a single at the end of the wreath branch per side. HALF DOL. CALIFORNIA GOLD. Around wreath, large 1852 within. Thick, "square" bow with rounded corners.

**Die State I.** Evidence of slight rust both sides, tiny rim break at 6:00 on the reverse.

**PCGS Population:** 21; 38 finer.

*From Pacific Auction Galleries, Inc.'s sale of September 1982, Lot 1069.*

## 1855-FD Round Liberty 50¢ Rarity

### BG-406, High Rarity 6

#### Plate Coin for the Second Edition of Breen-Gillio



**64 1855-FD Round 50¢. BG-406. Rarity-6+. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).** Deep olive gold with subdued lustre on frosty motifs and reflective fields. An altogether pleasing example of a rare variety from Frontier & Deviercy.

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 0.51 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.2 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-405.

**Reverse:** Scanty wreath wide open at top, six sets of triple leaves and five pairs of berries per side. Fraction between wreath ends, DOLLAR below, date below denomination. No fraction bar, 1 centered above and slightly distant from 2, DOLLAR fairly well-spaced but letters placed willy-nilly in the die, DOLL all lean crazily left, A upright, R leans left. Date numerals unevenly spaced, 18 wide, 85 nicely spaced, 55 close, 1 leans noticeably right, other numerals all lean left. Bow consists of two unattached semi-circles.

**Die State I.** See description at BG-405 above.

**PCGS Population:** 2; 2 finer (the best is a single MS-65).

*Purchased from Bob Steinberg, Boca Raton, Florida, March 11, 1978.*

## Desirable 1853-DN Round 50¢

BG-408, Rarity-6  
The Brand Specimen

**66 1853-DN Round 50¢. BG-408. Rarity-6. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Satiny deep honey gold surfaces with intense rich rose highlights. Strong underlying lustre heightens the overall eye appeal of this early Gold Rush era variety. The present specimen, once in the collection of Virgil Brand, was purchased by Brand from Lyman H. Low on October 21, 1896, and remained in the Brand family holdings until June 1984, at which time it entered the Jay Roe cabinet. Now this historic link to 19th century numismatics crosses the auction block in search of another name to add to its illustrious pedigree.

**Maker:** "D.N." (Deriberpie & Nouizillet-by Joseph Bros?).

**Weight:** 0.61 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.2 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-407.

**Reverse:** Sparse wreath, open but fairly close at top, four sets of thin leaves per side, the ones on the right resembling ears of corn more than leaves, three inner berries on left, three outer berries on right. HALF D. CALIFORNIA GOLD around wreath, letters nicely spaced for the most part but with HA on a sharp angle, L low, F lower, F of CALIFORNIA low and double-punched, second A low, defective L punch with spike protruding from its upright used in all three appearances. Large 1853 within wreath, date slopes progressively down to right, flat-topped 3. Delicate bow loop double-cut at top.

**Die State I.** See BG-407.

**PCGS Population:** 4; 6 finer (the best are 4 in MS-62).

*From our sale of the Virgil Brand Collection, Part II, The Jane Allen Brand Estate, June 1984, Lot 1573.*



**67 1853-DN Round 50¢. BG-409. Rarity-3. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Bright yellow gold with frosty motifs and deeply mirrored fields. Splashes of deep gold adorn the obverse, while the reverse is aglow with bright olive iridescence. A splendid prooflike specimen, certainly at the high end of the assigned grade. From the earliest die state for the variety, free of reverse cracks and much rarer, as such, than the Rarity-3 rating indicates.

**Maker:** "D.N." (Deriberpie & Nouizillet-by Joseph Bros?).

**Weight:** 0.62 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.3 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-407.

**Reverse:** Sparse wreath, open but fairly close at top, four sets of thin triple leaves per side, four pairs of berries (plus a terminal pair that is mainly hidden on the left stem end), four pairs plus a terminal spray of four single berries on right. HALF DOL. CALIFORNIA GOLD around wreath, letters nicely spaced for the most part but with R of CALIFORNIA high. Large 1853 within wreath, round-topped 3 the largest of the numerals, and what may be the diagonal stroke of an underlying 2 can be seen. Triangular bow loop flanked by berries.

**Die State I.** Perfect reverse die, no cracks at rim to legends or 3 of date.

**PCGS Population:** 18; 7 finer (all MS-64).

*Purchased from New England Rare Coin Gallery, February 1, 1978.*



## Amazing 1853-GG Round 50¢ Rarity

Famous Eagle Reverse

BG-410, Rarity-8

Finest of Just Two Known

The Lee Specimen



### 68 1853-GG Round 50¢. BG-410. Rarity-8. Liberty Head. Eagle reverse.

MS-64 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Deep yellow gold with distinctive olive highlights. As impressive as it is rare! The finest of *just two known* specimens of the variety. In the newest edition of the Breen-Gillio reference, Bob Leonard had the following to say about the present coin: "The Jay Roe specimen, ex Lee, is brilliant prooflike Uncirculated, needle sharp strike on a polished planchet with few traces of minute granularity; both dies imperfectly polished, showing concentric circular arcs from the lathe turning that preceded entering of device punches, letters, or stars." The present eagle has no spray of rays (the design element that gives that "other" bird its colorful nickname) behind it. A greatly respected and fabled rarity in the series, this variety was first discovered by Kenneth W. Lee circa 1950-55. Amazingly, the September 1988 sale of the Lee collection enumerated just two examples of the variety - in the ensuing 15 years, no other example has come to light! Accompanied by Ken Lee's "little black box" of the type that he had custom-made to house his collection. A successful bid on the present coin will no doubt bring a highly advanced California Small Denomination gold specialist a step closer to completion of what will surely play out to be a world-class collection at some future time.

**Maker:** Gaime, Guillemot & Co. (by Frontier, Deviercy & Co.).

**Weight:** 0.76 grams.

**Diameter:** 12.1 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Medium federal-style head of Liberty to left, 13 six-pointed stars around, first five stars between tip of bust and tip of coronet, stars 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, and 13 repunched. GG. Maker's mark below bust, no punctuation between first and second G, first G leans noticeably left, second G repunched, following period lower than letter.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-402.

**PCGS Population:** 1; none finer. This is the only example of the variety certified by PCGS.

*From Superior's sale of the Lee Collection, September 1988, Lot 60.*

## Rare 1853-GG Eagle Reverse 50¢

BG-411, Rarity-7

Plate Coin for the Second Edition of Breen-Gillio



### 69 1853-GG Round 50¢. BG-411. Rarity-7. Liberty Head. Eagle reverse.

AU-55 (PCGS). Deep olive gold with strong lustre and deep honey gold highlights. Nicely struck and about as nice as a lightly circulated coin comes! The present *eagle* reverse variety is one of the prominent rarities in the series, with the Jay Roe coin offered here being one of just *nine* examples of BG-411 enumerated by Bob Leonard in the new Breen-Gillio reference. Of those, two are finer than the present coin, one of the lesser pieces is noticeably scratched, and another of them is plugged at GG on the obverse. Another specimen was reportedly stolen in a burglary by "unknown Mexicans" some time in 1993 (we doubt the thief or thieves had any knowledge of what that little golden rarity was when it was purloined!). This variety was first discovered by Susan or David Doering circa 1968 or so, and first published in their *California Fractional Gold* in 1980. One of the greatest opportunities of the present offering is about to cross the auction block (in a sale that is literally laden with opportunities, we feel confident in stating that the present coin is *definitely* in the upper range of opportunities available in this landmark sale).

**Maker:** Gaime, Guillemot & Co. (by Frontier, Deviercy & Co.).

**Weight:** 0.64 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.9 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-410.

**Reverse:** Central eagle perched on arrow, CALIFORNIA GOLD. Arcs above, HALF .DOL curves below, date between HALF and .DOL. In CALIFORNIA, NIA at an angle to the rest of the letters, RN touch at bases, DOL first punched with D and O overlapping, then repunched, now with a jumble of letters beneath the existing DOL. Arrow tip points to D in DOL. Date numerals nicely spaced, top of 8 open, 53 slightly larger than 18, all numerals show repunching; this probably fades with use of the die.

**PCGS Population:** 1; 2 finer (both in MS-62). PCGS has graded only 3 examples of this variety.

*Purchased from Frank's Coin Shop, July 23, 1988.*

**Exceedingly Rare 1853-GG Round 50¢**

BG-412, Rarity-8  
The Discovery Specimen  
Ex Lee Collection  
Eagle Reverse  
One of Three Known Specimens

**70 1853-GG Round 50¢. BG-412. Rarity-8. Liberty Head. Eagle reverse.**

**AU-55.** Conservatively graded due to an attempted puncture at 12:00 on the obverse. The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Highly lustrous yellow gold with warm olive highlights. The reverse is easily choice Mint State, and a definite pleasure to behold (for that matter, don't count the obverse out where eye appeal is concerned!). From the celebrated Lee Collection (1988), an important pedigree where the series is concerned. Considered unique in 1988, but two other examples of the variety (including the present coin) have come to light in the ensuing 15 years. The finest of the three known specimens, Texas:4323 (ex Brownlee, Heifetz, Elder-Comstock-Gunther) was reportedly stolen by "unknown Mexicans" in 1993, leaving the present coin as the finest of the two specimens whose whereabouts can be traced today. Another of the rare *eagle* reverse varieties. No doubt many years will pass before another example of BG-412 crosses the auction block, so don't get caught snoozing or you'll risk *never* owning an example of this elusive rarity! Accompanied by Lee's "little black box."

**Maker:** Gaime, Guillemot & Co. (by Frontier, Deviercy & Co.).

**Weight:** 0.71 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.7 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Medium federal-style head of Liberty to left, head placed slightly left of center, 13 six-pointed stars around, star 1 close to tip of bust, coronet tip points between stars 5 and 6. G.G. below bust, nicely spaced, second G tilted right and directly above star 12, closer to hair than star. Right uppermost star point of star 12 points to bottom of first G.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-411.

PCGS has not yet graded any examples of this variety.

*From Superior's sale of the Lee Collection, September 1988, Lot 61.*

**Mint State 1853-GG Round 50¢ Rarity**

BG-413, High Rarity-7  
Finest Known of Variety  
Another of the Rare Eagle Varieties  
The John Work Garrett Specimen

**71 1853-GG Round 50¢. BG-413. Rarity-7+. Liberty Head. Eagle reverse.**

**MS-61 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Lustrous yellow gold with rich honey highlights and deep orange toning in places. A modicum of cameo contrast is present. Another great rarity courtesy of the Dr. John Westal Rowe Collection, this the *finest* of just six examples of the variety currently known. Of those half dozen specimens, one is noticeably repaired, and another is holed for suspension. As with numismatic connoisseur Harry Bass, Dr. John Rowe was a stickler for quality, and it certainly shows. Whether a desirable Rarity-8 or a common Rarity-3 issue, Jay Roe sought and found the best - now the best is passed along to you!

**Maker:** Gaime, Guillemot & Co. (by Frontier, Deviercy & Co.).

**Weight:** 0.60 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.8 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Medium federal-style head of Liberty to left, 13 six-pointed stars around, star 1 away from tip of bust, coronet tip points between stars 5 and 6. G.G. below bust, nicely spaced, second G higher, second period distant. Right uppermost star point of star 12 points below bottom of first G.

**Reverse:** Central eagle on arrow perch, CALIFORNIA GOLD. Arcs above, HALF DOL. Curves below, date between HALF and DOL. (this is the only G.G. eagle reverse with a period after DOL). O in CALIFORNIA high, RN tilted right, N missing lower left foot, I low, A high. L of GOLD punched very low, partly effaced, then repunched. Fairly wide space between 18 and 53, period follows date. Arrow points to period after 3 in date.

**PCGS Population:** 1; none finer. PCGS has graded only 2 examples of this variety.

*From our sale of the Texas Collection, January 1992, Lot 4324; our sale of the Garrett Collection, March 1981, Lot 2184.*





- 72 1853-GG Round 50¢. BG-414. Rarity-5-. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (To Illustrate I). Deep olive gold with strong lustre and much brightness in the protected areas. A natural planchet flake, as struck, is noted in the obverse field in front of Liberty's face. A delightful example of a moderately scarce variety; an example of BG-414 was found in the wreck of the *S.S. Winfield Scott*.

**PCGS Population:** 5; 13 finer (the best is a single MS-63).

**Maker:** Gaime, Guillemot & Co. (by Frontier, Deviercy & Co.).

**Weight:** 0.55 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.8 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-413.

**Reverse:** Diminutive wreath open at top, four sets of triple leaves and five pairs of berries per side, CALIFORNIA GOLD. arcs above wreath, date curves below, fraction at top of wreath, denomination at center. CALIFO nicely spaced, RNI widely spaced, IA close, second I noticeably low. GO wide, OLD evenly spaced. Fraction numerals centered, fraction bar appears slightly longer on left end. DOLLA tightly spaced, R slightly distant, O low, first L tilts left, LLA joined at bases, right foot of R joined to leaf. Date numerals widely spaced, stem of wreath extends between 1 and 8, top of 8 open, bow loop between 8 and 5, stem between 5 and 3, nearly touching 5. Bow with three heart-shaped loops, two above stems and one, inverted, below.

**Die State I.** Die crack, fraction bar to R in DOLLAR, then to wreath.

**PCGS Population:** 5; 13 finer (the best is a single MS-63).

*From NASCA's sale of May 1979, Lot 3448.*



- 73 1853-GG Round 50¢. BG-414. Rarity-5-. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS). Deep gold with warm rose and pale blue highlights. A second example of BG-414, this from weakened dies with only slight traces of beads or "pearls" on Liberty's coronet; this die state was often called "BG-414A" and thought to be a separate variety until recent years.

**Maker:** Gaime, Guillemot & Co. (by Frontier, Deviercy & Co.).

**Weight:** 0.59 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.8 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-413.

**Reverse:** Diminutive wreath open at top, four sets of triple leaves and five pairs of berries per side, CALIFORNIA GOLD. arcs above wreath, date curves below, fraction at top of wreath, denomination at center. CALIFO nicely spaced, RNI widely spaced, IA close, second I noticeably low. GO wide, OLD evenly spaced. Fraction numerals centered, fraction bar appears slightly longer on left end. DOLLA tightly spaced, R slightly distant, O low, first L tilts left, LLA joined at bases, right foot of R joined to leaf. Date numerals widely spaced, stem of wreath extends between 1 and 8, top of 8 open, bow loop between 8 and 5, stem between 5 and 3, nearly touching 5. Bow with three heart-shaped loops, two above stems and one, inverted, below.

**Die State I.** Die crack, fraction bar to R in DOLLAR, then to wreath.

**PCGS Population:** 5; 13 finer (the best is a single MS-63).

*From Superior's sale of the Club Cal Neva Collection, September 1987, Lot 4439.*



- 74 1853 Round 50¢. BG-415. Rarity-5-. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A bright and lustrous olive gold specimen that is decidedly choice for the assigned grade. Prooflike reflectivity and lightly frosted motifs make for an altogether pleasing example of this moderately scarce variety. Struck from noticeably clashed dies, particularly so on the reverse.

**Maker:** M. Deriberpic.

**Weight:** 0.52 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.2 mm.

**Edge:** Widely reeded.

**Obverse:** Large head of Liberty to left, 12 six-pointed stars around, star 1 embedded in point of Liberty's bust, stars from defective punch, all with four "normal" points and two short points, star 8 attached to upper hair bun, star 11 very close to lowest hair curl. Heavy raised die lines across Liberty's portrait (these may later fade).

**Reverse:** Same as BG-408.

**Die State II.** Dies lightly clashed.

**PCGS Population:** 7; 16 finer (the best are 3 in MS-65).

*Purchased from Scott Johnston, July 21, 1988.*

### Uncirculated 1853 Liberty Half Dollar Rarity BG-416, Low Rarity-7

Plate Coin for the Second Edition of Breen-Gillio



- 75 1853 Round 50¢. BG-416. Rarity-7-. Liberty Head. MS-60 (PCGS).

Frosty yellow gold with strong lustre and extraordinary eye appeal for the assigned grade. A truly lovely example of one of the prized rarities in the series. Bob Leonard listed nine examples of BG-416 in his recent endeavors, with the present coin among the three finest known. Of the other listed pieces, one is slightly bent. Regarding the other specimens, Bob cautions us that "This list probably contains a duplicate or two." Duplications aside, the present coin is a definite *Condition Census* example of a legitimate Rarity-7 variety, and we suspect the bidding activity that surrounds the present lot will reflect the coin's true stature.

**Maker:** M. Deriberpic.

**Weight:** 0.51 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.2 mm.

**Edge:** Widely reeded.

**Obverse:** Large head of Liberty to left, 12 six-pointed stars around, star 12 embedded in underside of Liberty's bust, some stars from defective punch with five "normal" points and one short point, star 8 just touches upper hair bun, point of coronet protrudes significantly between stars 4 and 5.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-408.

**PCGS Population:** 1; 2 finer (the best are 2 in MS-61). PCGS has graded only 6 examples of this variety.

*From Steve Ivy's sale of August 1982, Lot 3354.*





**76 1853 Round 50¢. BG-417. Rarity-5+. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State I). Deep orange highlights on rich and lustrous rose gold surfaces. A pleasing representative example of the grade and variety.

**Maker:** M. Deriberpie.

**Weight:** 0.49 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.8 mm.

**Edge:** Widely reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-416, here with signs of rust on the obverse.

**Reverse:** Tiny wreath, nearly closed at top, five pairs of triple leaves per side, 12 berries per side, left berries as four pairs, a group of three, and a single at the tip of the branch, right berries as six pairs, CALIFORNIA GOLD HALF D around wreath, date at center. CA close, ALIF wider, FORNIA evenly spaced, GO close, O open at top, OL wide, LD close and tilted dramatically right, HA close, AL wide, LF nicely spaced, D apparently over another letter, perhaps a D that was punched too low then partly effaced before repunched. Date numerals large and well-formed, 1 and 3 fairly broad, 85 thin in comparison.

**Die State I.** Faint clashmarks on the obverse, no crack joining the three stars above the head.

**PCGS Population:** 4; 11 finer (the best is a single MS-65).

*From our sale of the Hetrick Collection, January 1982, Lot 2199.*

**Elusive 1853 Round Liberty 50¢**

**BG-418, Low Rarity-7**

**Plate Coin for the Second Edition of Breen-Gillio**



**77 1853 Round 50¢. BG-418. Rarity-7-. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).**

Deep olive gold with strong lustre and some prooflike contrast. A noted rarity within the series (it seems we keep repeating that phrase here in our catalogue of the Jay Roe Collection!), the present piece being the third finest on a roster of 14 examples of the variety listed by Bob Leonard in the newest edition of the Breen-Gillio reference. Of those 14 coins, at least one is reportedly holed, and as nearly always noted by Bob Leonard, there is "probably some duplication" in the listing. Be that as it may, the present coin needs no qualifiers or empty rhetoric—its rarity speaks for itself. Another highlight from the Jay Roe cabinet that will certainly evoke its fair share of spirited bidder participation.

**Maker:** M. Deriberpie.

**Weight:** 0.61 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.8 mm.

**Edge:** Widely reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-415.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-417.

**PCGS Population:** 2; 2 finer (the best is a single MS-64). PCGS has graded only 8 examples of this variety.

*Purchased from Richard L'Heureux, May 1, 1990.*

**Exceedingly Rare 1853 Round Liberty 50¢**

**BG-419, Rarity-8**

**One of Three Known**

**Ex F.C.C. Boyd**



**78 1853 Round 50¢. BG-419. Rarity-8. Liberty Head. AU-55 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Deep orange gold with rich rose and blue highlights that mingle nicely with bursts of strong underlying lustre. A rare variety that was first discovered by Ken Lee circa 1950-55; in all the years that have passed since then, just two other specimens of the variety have emerged! Of the three known specimens, the first listed in the new reference is Lee's discovery coin, called AU-50, and now in a specialized California collection. The second specimen is noted as "Ex-Doering" in the reference, but without assigned grade. The third on the list, the present piece, was called EF-45 when it made its appearance in the Club Cal Neva Collection (1987), but has since been graded AU-55 by PCGS, which makes it "finest known" in a technical and numerical sense at least.

**Maker:** M. Deriberpie.

**Weight:** 0.53 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.8 mm.

**Edge:** Widely reeded and faint.

**Obverse:** Large head of Liberty to left, 12 six-pointed stars around; stars 1 through 4 between tip of bust and point of coronet, star 1 close to chin, star 2 close to nose, star 11 extremely tiny, what is probably the point of another star protrudes from the upper side of the point of Liberty's bust, point of bust touches dentils.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-417.

**PCGS Population:** 1; none finer. The only example graded by PCGS!

*From Superior's sale of the Club Cal Neva Collection, September 1987, Lot 4441; ex F.C.C. Boyd.*



## Rare 1853-D Liberty Half Dollar

BG-420, Low Rarity-7

Ex Art Kagin Collection



## 79 1853-D Round 50¢. BG-420. Rarity-7-. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Bright olive gold with heavy lustre and a generous dose of eye appeal. Listed by Bob Leonard as the second finest known out of a dozen specimens on the roster. Of those, one is permanently impounded at the Smithsonian Institution, several are well-circulated, and at least one is holed and plugged. Again, when you're talking Rarity-7, to most collectors just about *any* specimen will do. Fortunately, the present specimen met the high standards set by Jay Roe when he first began his specialization in the series, his requirements being simply to own the very finest example of every BG variety he could find. And, just in case you haven't noticed yet, Jay Roe succeeded admirably!

**Maker:** M. Deriberpie.**Weight:** 0.57 grams.**Diameter:** 11.3 mm.**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Large head of Liberty to left, 11 six-pointed stars around, one point broken on each star, star 1 horizontally even with point of bust, star 8 touches upper hair bun, large D maker's mark centered below truncation.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-417.**PCGS Population:** 1; none finer. PCGS has graded only 2 examples of this variety.

*Purchased from Kagin's, Des Moines, Iowa, April 23, 1979; ex Art Kagin Collection.*



## 81 1853-D Round 50¢. BG-422. Rarity-6+. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS).

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Lustrous yellow gold with warm honey highlights. An attractive example of a moderately rare variety. Reverse die cracked horizontally from 3:00 to 9:00, and the reverse shows definite signs of swelling (caused when a die collapses in upon itself); this reverse probably "gave up the ghost" soon after production of the variety began, which would account for its rarity today. This variety was first noted by F.C.C. Boyd, who was active in numismatics circa 1910-46. An ideal opportunity for interested parties to enter the "second tier" of rarity in the series, which includes those elusive pieces rated Rarity-6 or higher.

**Maker:** M. Deriberpie.**Weight:** 0.56 grams.**Diameter:** 11.3 mm.**Edge:** Crudely reeded.**Obverse:** Same as BG-421.

**Reverse:** Thin open-topped wreath, CALIFORNIA GOLD. HALF D. around, star at inner top, date below. All letters in peripheral legends fairly evenly spaced, but most are very crude. Six-pointed star within wreath, date below, numerals large and well-spaced, 8 thinner than other numerals, raised die line through 853, large, sharply triangular bow.

*Purchased from New England Rare Coin Gallery, May 27, 1977.*



## 80 1853-D Round 50¢. BG-421. Rarity-4. Liberty Head. MS-60.

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State I). Bright and lustrous yellow gold with a touch of pale olive iridescence. Lightly brushed some time ago, but not to the detriment of the coin; we mention this for accuracy (and for those who think that all that glitters is necessarily gem-like). A few faint hairlines present, but the overall appeal is quite fine. Another of the varieties retrieved from the wreck of the *S.S. Winfield Scott* in the early 1960s (the *Winfield Scott* went to the bottom of the ocean off the coast of California on December 1, 1853).

**Maker:** M. Deriberpie.**Weight:** 0.50 grams.**Diameter:** 11.3 mm.**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Large head of Liberty to left, 11 six-pointed stars around, one point broken on each star, star 1 close to and just above point of bust, star 8 nearly touches upper hair bun, large D maker's mark centered below truncation, period or dot-like die flaw inside D.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-417.**Die State I.** Perfect dies.

*From Kagin's sale of May 1978, Lot 1253.*

**Important 1854-D Round 50¢ Rarity****BG-422A, High Rarity-7****Finest of Four Known****Ex DeWitt Smith, Virgil Brand**

- 82 1854-D Round 50¢. BG-422A. Rarity-7+. Liberty Head. MS-60 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Rich honey gold with deep yellow highlights and strong underlying lustre. A pleasing coin for the assigned grade, perhaps just a hint of brightness from a much higher designation. A muling of the obverse of BG-421 with the reverse of BG-423. The finest of just *four* examples of the variety currently thought to exist, one of which has been positively identified in the American Numismatic Society's holdings effectively bringing the number of available examples of BG-422A to three pieces. Bob Leonard cautions us that one of the four listed examples may be a duplicate listing, which would then bring the number of specimens in private collections to just two coins! (Also, if just three examples are known, the present coin can claim a Rarity-8 rating with impunity!) Here is another of those varieties that stand in the way of "completeness" for several specialists. Thanks to our current offering of the Jay Roe Collection, those few specialists now have the opportunity to bid on - and hopefully acquire - this rare variety and thus bring their own undoubtedly world-class collection one step closer to completion, and to add their own name to a pedigree roster that includes DeWitt Smith, Virgil Brand, and Jay Roe.

**Maker:** M. Deriberpie.**Weight:** 0.56 grams.**Diameter:** 11.5 mm.**Edge:** Crudely reeded.**Obverse:** Same as BG-421.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-423, which follows, but described here for sake of uniformity in the catalogue. Thin open-topped wreath, broken L punch (or perhaps the L punch went missing the day this die was created) causes peripheral legend to read CAIIFORNIA GOID HAIF D, all legend letters nicely spaced save for NI in CAIIFORNIA, those spaced noticeably apart, C, A, F, and A all filled, G in GOID broken at bottom, O nearly so. Four pairs of triple leaves per side, second set from top on left double punched, leaves on right resemble ears of corn more so than leaves, 7 berries left in two lower pairs, an inner single, then an upper pair, 8 berries right in four pairs. Six-pointed star at upper center of wreath, date below, numerals large and nicely (if somewhat crudely) formed, 4 perhaps a trifle distant.

**PCGS Population:** 1; none finer. The only example certified by PCGS.

DeWitt Smith, who advertised to buy "private gold coins" as early as 1890, passed away in 1908. At that time, there were 305 different varieties of California Small Denomination gold coins in his collection. His holdings included the present coin, which was not known as such a great rarity at the time. In December 1908, Virgil Brand purchased the Smith California gold coins for his own collection.

*Purchased from Ronald Gillio, June 18, 1984; formerly in our sale of the Virgil Brand Collection, The Jane Allen Brand Estate, November 1983, Lot 819; purchased by Virgil Brand from the DeWitt Smith Estate in 1908 just after Smith's passing.*



- 83 1854-D Round 50¢. BG-423. Rarity-6+. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Bright and lustrous yellow gold with olive highlights on frosty motifs and reflective fields. Decidedly choice for the grade. A rare variety that will certainly see a spirited spate of bidding competition.

**Maker:** M. Deriberpie.**Weight:** 0.53 grams.**Diameter:** 11.3 mm.**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Large head of Liberty to left, 11 six-pointed stars around, all with one broken point, point of star 1 points to and is very close to tip of bust, star 5 close to front curve of coronet, star 8 close to upper hair bun, D maker's mark large and well-centered below bust.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-422A, as described there.**PCGS Population:** 1; 2 finer (both in MS-63).

*Purchased from Northeast Numismatics, August 14, 1979.*



**Another Rare 1854-D 50¢ Variety**  
**BG-424, Low Rarity-7**  
**Plate Coin for the Second Edition of Breen-Gillio**



**84 1854-D Round 50¢. BG-424. Rarity-7-. Liberty Head. MS-60 (PCGS).** Deep honey gold with heavy violet toning. Some underlying lustre present. A Mint State (bought in a MS-61 PCGS holder, cracked out by Jay Roe and now back in a PCGS holder, this time as MS-60) example of a rare variety; the present piece is listed as fifth finest on the new reference's roster of 10 known specimens. Even if we *don't* allow for duplication within the census listing, with only 10 specimens known, BG-424 is a rarity, plain and simple! It's nearly a certainty that the number of collectors clamoring for an example of BG-424 is far, far greater than the number of collectors who are content in the knowledge that they already own a specimen! Now it's your turn to be content!

**Maker:** M. Deriberpie.

**Weight:** 0.36 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.7 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Large head of Liberty to left, 14 six-pointed stars around, point of star 1 extremely close to upper side of tip of bust, star 10 horizontally opposite upper hair bun, stars 12 and 13 repunched.

**Reverse:** Thin open-topped wreath, five pairs of triple leaves on left plus a V-shaped pair near bow, four pairs of triple leaves plus V-shaped pair on right, possibly berries or tiny leaves on both stems near bases of trefoils. CALIFORNIA GOLD HALF DOL around wreath, letters mainly evenly spaced, patchwork L punch with tiny base (reworked I punch from BG-422A/423 reverse?) in legend, base of G in GOLD broken, LF of HALF widely spaced. Six-pointed star at top center of wreath, one point broken, date below, maker's mark D below date. Date numerals large and robust though somewhat hand-hewn in appearance, what may be two joined periods or dots in field immediately after date (followed by another dot that could be a leaf or a berry), all but the extreme left side of the D below the 5 in the date.

PCGS Population: 1; 5 finer (the best is a single MS-63). PCGS has graded only 6 examples of this variety.

*From Heritage's sale of August 1994, Lot 7964, a multi-piece lot.*

**Elusive 1854 Liberty 50¢ Rarity**  
**BG-425, Low Rarity-7**



**85 1854 Round 50¢. BG-425. Rarity-7-. Liberty Head. AU-55 (PCGS).** Plated in *California Pioneer Fractional Gold, Second Edition*. Warm olive gold with strong underlying lustre and splashes of orange gold toning. Lightly frosted motifs and slightly mirrored fields form a soft but tantalizing cameo. A rare variety by anyone's standards! Bob Leonard listed 13 examples of the variety in the latest Breen-Gillio reference, a list that included a damaged VF specimen and perhaps one duplication; the present coin was listed in seventh place. Struck from a lightly cracked reverse die, a factor which may have contributed to the rarity of BG-425. One of many *opportunities* afforded to today's collectors in the spectacular offering of Dr. John Westal Rowe's collection, an opportunity that could prove immense to a lucky specialist.

**Maker:** M. Deriberpie.

**Weight:** 0.62 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.7 mm.

**Edge:** Widely reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-424.

**Reverse:** Crude die work. Small, nearly closed wreath with five leaf sets on the left, four leaf sets on the right, berries (or small leaves?) 8 left, a low pair, an outer single, an inner single, and two pairs above, 8 right, four pairs. CALIFORNIA GOLD HALF D around wreath, date centered within. CALIF widely spaced, FORN evenly spaced, NI slightly wide, IA evenly spaced, crossbar in first A, patchwork foot on L, I resembles backward J, blunt lower crossbar to E, O double punched, RN crude, next I low and from inverted I punch (now resembles an inverted *and* backward J), A with trace of crossbar, GOLD evenly spaced, letters somewhat crude, top of D broken, die line from leaf touches lower left of D, then terminates between L and D, HALF from crude, spindly punches, no crossbar in A, D broadly double-punched. Date numerals large but crude, 85 slightly distant, 4 slightly smaller and very crude. Finally, a reverse die crack arcs from the rim at 2:00, grazing the lower left foot of the H in HALF, and runs from there to the wreath where it arcs downward across the two center leaf groups, from there running downward through the double-punched D in the denomination, then to the rim at about 5:30.

PCGS Population: 1; 6 finer (the best are 2 in MS-63).

*From Superior's sale of June 1985, Lot 1986; ex David Doering.*

**Important 1852 Half Dollar Rarity**  
**Finest of Three Known**  
**BG-426, Rarity-8**



**86 1852 Round 50¢. BG-426. Rarity-8. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Rich violet and electric blue highlights adorn lustrous deep honey gold surfaces. A rare variety, another of the several Rarity-8 varieties that are making their appearance here for the first time in years, some of them for the first time in decades - for instance, the present example has been out of the numismatic marketplace since 1980! The finest of three specimens annotated by Bob Leonard in the recent edition of the Breen-Gillio reference, and certainly exciting for that reason. Leonard also notes that this variety by Nouizillet is "Apparently a copy of the earliest gold fractional coins issued by Joseph Bros." We suspect that virtually all of the interested bidders who have read this far are lacking an example of BG-426 in their collection, and with good reason - it's a prime rarity by any standards! We're certain that many enthusiastic bidders will heartily welcome this rarity back to the hobby after its long and illustrious stay in the cabinet of Dr. John Westal Rowe!

**Maker:** Antoine Louis Nouizillet.

**Weight:** 0.82 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.9 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Small federal-style head of Liberty to left, 13 six-pointed stars around, one defective point on each, star 9 opposite space between upper and lower hair buns, Liberty's bust points between stars 1 and 13, 9 "pearls" or beads on coronet.

**Reverse:** Modest open-topped wreath, HALF DOL. CALIFORNIA GOLD. Around, date within, four triple leaves each stem, 9 berries each side, four pairs plus a terminal berry each, letters in legend nicely spaced and nicely formed, each A filled. Date numerals large and somewhat crude, each consecutively lower from left to right, each with traces of repunching. Tiny triangular bow with a pair of berries on each side.

**Die State I.** Perfect obverse die.

**PCGS Population:** 2; none finer. PCGS has graded only these 2 examples of this variety.

*Purchased from Matt DeRoma, Flushing, New York, June 24, 1980.*

**Rare 1852 Round Liberty 50¢**  
**BG-427, Low Rarity -6**  
**Among the Earliest**  
**Fractional Gold Issues**



**87 1852 Round 50¢. BG-427. Rarity-6-. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Bright lemon yellow gold with strong lustre and mild cameo contrast. A pleasing example for the grade. While not one of the most prized rarities in the sale, the present Rarity-6- item is certainly a variety that can hold its own where desirability and potential bidding activity are concerned. Both BG-426 (see previous lot) and BG-427 (as represented here) are thought to be very early imitations of the earliest issues by the Joseph Bros.

**Maker:** Antoine Louis Nouizillet.

**Weight:** 0.82 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.9 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Small federal-style head of Liberty to left, 13 six-pointed stars around, one defective point on each, Liberty's nose points below star 3, star 9 below space between upper and lower hair buns, Liberty's bust points between stars 1 and 13, closer to the latter, 13 "pearls" or beads on coronet, tiny raised dot on upper cheek behind eye.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-426.

**Die State I.** Engraver's lines (arcs of a circle) between first several stars.

**PCGS Population:** 2; 1 finer (MS-63).

*From Heritage's sale of June 1985, Lot 434.*





**88 1853 Round 50¢. BG-428. Rarity-3. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A pleasing and lustrous bright yellow gold specimen of a popular variety from the early days of the series. The present variety is more apt to be found lightly circulated, as this issue saw plenty of duty in day-to-day commerce during the halcyon days of the Gold Rush.

**Maker:** Antoine Louis Nouizillet.

**Weight:** 0.58 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.3 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Small federal-style head of Liberty to left, 13 six-pointed stars around, one defective point on each, Liberty's nose points to star 3, star 9 opposite space between upper and lower hair huns, Liberty's bust points between stars 1 and 13, much closer to the former, 14 "pearls" or beads on coronet.

**Reverse:** Small open-topped scanty wreath, three triple leaves and a lantern-like terminal set per branch, berries 8 per branch arranged as one lower outer berry, three pairs, and a single terminal berry per branch. HALF DOL. CALIFORNIA GOLD around wreath, letters nicely formed and spaced for the most part, small A punch with low crossbar used in all words, LF distant, L dramatically tilts left, C shapely, slightly distant, IA close and noticeably lower than N. Date at center of wreath, numerals nicely shaped and fairly large, round-topped 3. Six-pointed star below triangular how.

**Die State I.** Here a late state, crack at top of wreath makes a hairline appearance; this later gets heavier and expands to other places for Die State II.

**PCGS Population:** 44; 121 finer.

*Purchased from New England Rare Coin Gallery, July 27, 1978.*



**89 1853 Round 50¢. BG-428. Rarity-3. Liberty Head. AU-50. Ex-jewelry,** mount removed at top of obverse. A variety within a variety (sometimes called "BG-428A;" there are no beads on Liberty's coronet, otherwise the dies are the same as BG-428).

**Maker:** Antoine Louis Nouizillet.

**Weight:** 0.54 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.3 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Die State:** Uncertain due to wear.

*Purchased from "Hamilton, Long Beach," September 28, 1987.*

**90 1853 Round 50¢. BG-428. Rarity-3. Liberty Head. EF-45. Love Token.** Holed at 12:00 on the obverse, reverse date removed and "Jennie" engraved in fancy Spencerian script. Neat-California Small Denomination Gold issues are seldom seen in the love token format! No beads variety.

**Maker:** Antoine Louis Nouizillet.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Die State:** Uncertain due to alteration.

*Purchased for: "Cash. July 1988 A.N.A."*



**91 1853 Round 50¢. BG-429. Rarity-4-. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (incorrectly used to illustrate State II). Bright and lustrous yellow gold with strong olive highlights. Somewhat prooflike overall, and a lot of coin for the grade. Moderately scarce and always desirable in Mint State.

**Maker:** Antoine Louis Nouizillet.

**Weight:** 0.55 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.2 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-428. As noted by Bob Leonard: "Apparently the same obverse, reworked at borders to eliminate rim crumbling, now with square dentils."

**Reverse:** Small open-topped wreath, five pairs of triple leaves and five pairs of berries per stem, HALF DOL. CALIFORNIA GOLD around wreath, date at center, six-pointed star below bow. HALF widely but evenly spaced, DOL. Nicely spaced, O high, CAL. wide, A high, L low, GOLD tightly spaced, GO nearly touch. Date numerals large and artistically formed, round-topped 3.

**Die State II.** Plain rim crumbling at upper right obverse, die crack on Liberty's cheek, another connecting stars below her bust.

**PCGS Population:** 33; 8 finer (the best is a single MS-65).

*Purchased from Free State Numismatics, September 23, 1983.*





**92 1853 Round 50¢. BG-430. Rarity-3. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A highly lustrous and equally prooflike yellow gold specimen with decided olive highlights. Choice for the grade, and a choice example of the issue as well. Another of the varieties that were recovered from the wreck of the *S.S. Winfield Scott*. The present variety was illustrated as "current money" on the cover of Dye's 1854 or 1855 cambist, there with a value of 48 cents. *Hodge's Gold & Silver Coin Chart Manual*, showed the same variety in 1858, there also with a value of 48 cents. By the 1861 issue of *Hodge's*, the value had declined to a mere 32 cents.

**Maker:** Antoine Louis Nouizillet.

**Weight:** 0.54 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.2 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Small federal-style head of Liberty to left, 13 six-pointed stars around, star 5 close to tip of coronet, star 13 close to underside of tip of truncation, 12 "pearls" or beads on coronet.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-429.

**Die State I.** Both dies perfect.

**PCGS Population:** 30; 18 finer.

*Purchased from New England Rare Coin Gallery, July 27, 1978.*



**93 1854 Round 50¢. BG-431. Rarity-5-. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Bright yellow gold with olive highlights on frosty motifs and mirrored fields. An altogether pleasing example of the "Empty Wreath" variety, the only appearance of the die in the series. A popular and scarce type coin within the series.

**Maker:** Antoine Louis Nouizillet.

**Weight:** 0.50 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.1 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Small federal-style head of Liberty to left, 11 six-pointed stars around, coronet point closer to star 6 than to star 5, no beads on coronet. Date below bust, numerals nicely if widely spaced, fine line connects 5 and 4.

**Reverse:** Thin open-topped wreath, nothing within, five sets of triple leaves on each branch, 11 berries per side, a single lower berry and five pairs. HALF DOL. CALIFORNIA GOLD around, HAL wide, LF close, CAL low, LI nearly touch, F repunched, RN touch at bottom, GO slightly low, D slightly high. Six-pointed star below bow.

**Die State II (Die State I in first edition of Breen-Gillio).** Obverse lightly polished, reverse with faint clash marks and light cracks within wreath.

**PCGS Population:** 9; 13 finer.

*Purchased from New England Rare Coin Gallery, February 1, 1978.*



**94 1855 Round 50¢. BG-432. Rarity-5. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Bright yellow gold with frosty motifs and mirror fields. A splendid cameo specimen that borders on gem quality both physically and aesthetically. Moderately scarce as a variety, but always highly desirable when offered in such an outstanding state of preservation. Regarding the present variety, Bob Leonard noted "This reverse is one of the rare instances of a die actually used, then resoftened, altered, rehardened, and returned to press (the Philadelphia Mint last did so in 1806 on quarter eagles, half and quarter dollars, even then only because the engraver had almost exhausted his supply of die steel). As with the 1806/5 quarter eagle die, this reverse shows the same cracks as in its previous use, here far more extended; its life thereafter was measured in hours."

**Maker:** Antoine Louis Nouizillet.

**Weight:** 0.53 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.1 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Large head of Liberty to left, 13 six-pointed stars around, first three stars repunched, star 9 close to upper hair bun, point of bust between first and last stars.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-431, but with date added at center of wreath; here the faint cracks of BG-431 are now heavy and plainly seen.

**PCGS Population:** 6; 1 finer (MS-65).

*Purchased for "Cash-FUN, January 9, 1981."*



## Rare 1855 Round Liberty 50¢

BG-433, Low Rarity-7

Fewer Than a Dozen Known



**95 1855 Round 50¢. BG-433. Rarity-7-. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Bright and lustrous yellow gold with a decided olive cast. Another great rarity within the series, the present variety is frequently referred to as the "Fatal Break" variety owing to the late state of the much-used reverse die. Only 11 examples of BG-433 are enumerated in Bob Leonard's roster, with "probably slight duplication" duly noted for that listing. The present coin ranks sixth on that list behind five Mint State coins (MS-63, MS-62, MS-61, MS-60, MS-60), and is technically a *Condition Census* example of the variety.

**Maker:** Antoine Louis Nouizillet.

**Weight:** 0.51 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.1 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Large head of Liberty to left, 13 six-pointed stars around, star 1 very near tip of Liberty's bust, Liberty "looks" directly at star 4, star 10 opposite space between hair buns.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-431, but with date added at center of wreath; here heavily cracked in what must surely be a terminal state, with retained cuds among the wreath on the right side as well as numerous cracks.

**Die State I.** Heavy obverse die break stars 6 to 8, no rim cud.

**PCGS Population:** 2; 3 finer (the best is a single MS-62). PCGS has graded only 6 examples of this variety.

*Purchased from Karl Stephens, April 11, 1988.*



**96 1856-N Round 50¢. BG-434. Rarity-4-. Liberty Head. AU-58.** Plated in *California Pioneer Fractional Gold, Second Edition*.

An attractive coin of gem quality save for traces of an old, light brushing applied some time ago by a no doubt well-meaning collector. Bright and lustrous yellow gold with attractive honey highlights. From a die state that is *considerably rare* than the Rarity-4 listing of the variety implies. A visually impressive coin despite a few minor drawbacks; one glance will convince you of this!

**Maker:** Antoine Louis Nouizillet.

**Weight:** 0.52 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.1 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Large head of Liberty to left, 12 six-pointed stars around, lowest point of star 8 attached to upper hair bun, star 9 close to lower hair bun, innermost point of star 11 touches lowest curl.

**Reverse:** Small open-topped wreath, five sets of triple leaves and four pairs of berries per branch, HALF DOL. CALIFORNIA GOLD around wreath, HAL slightly wide, LF close, other letters essentially "normal" and well-spaced. Date in wreath, slightly higher and left of center, numerals nicely formed and nicely spaced. Maker's mark, N, below wreath.

**Die State IV.** Numerous reverse clash marks, dentils crumbling, diagonal die crack below date reaches from lowest left leaf (directly below 1 in date) upward to berry stem opposite 6 in date.

*From Heritage's sale of September 1987, Lot 1564.*

## Important 1853 Half Dollar Issue

State Arms of California

BG-435, Low Rarity-5

The Virgil Brand Specimen



**97 1853 Round 50¢. BG-435. Rarity-5-. State Arms. "Humbert Eagle Reverse. MS-63 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Deep olive gold with some pale blue iridescence. A lovely choice Mint State example of perhaps the most famous of the California Small Denomination gold issues (though, of course, such rarities as the "Defiant Eagle," "Peacock" reverse, and "Humbert" reverse varieties must surely vie for "most famous" honors within the series). Though not an extremely rare variety (now recognized as a Low Rarity-5 variety-in our sale of the Texas Collection in 1992, BG-435 was listed as "Rarity-6+"), the State Arms pieces are eagerly sought by a collector base that places much more demand on the variety than the available population can readily handle. A "unique" variety in that BG-435 marks the *only* appearance in the series of either die. Definitely choice, and just as definitely a highlight of the present sale. The present specimen has adorned the cabinets of Virgil Brand and Jay Roe, and now our bidders have a golden opportunity to add this lovely and well-known specimen to their own numismatic cabinet!

**Maker:** Unknown Maker "A" (possibly Braverman & Levy).

**Weight:** 0.61 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.3 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Inner circle with 13 six-pointed stars around and date at bottom, seated Columbia as plumed and helmeted Minerva to left, her left hand on radiant shield, right hand holding spear, bear (symbol of the Golden State) before shield, ocean and mountains in background. Date numerals widely but evenly spaced, top of 1 close to circle above, top of 8 touches circle, 5 low and leaning left, 3 also leans left.

**Reverse:** .CALIFORNIA GOLD. arcs above central circle, HALF DOLLAR curves below, all letters nicely formed and nicely placed, HAL a little wide. Strident eagle with wings spread within circle, left talons on olive branch, right talons holding shield, ribbon in beak.

**PCGS Population:** 16; 12 finer.

*Purchased from Jeff Garrett, February 1985; formerly in our sale of the Virgil Brand Collection, The Jane Allen Brand Estate, November 1983, Lot 815.*

## Famous 1854 Half Dollar Rarity

Eagle Without Scroll Variety

BG-436, Rarity-6



**98 1854 Round 50¢. BG-436. Rarity-6. Liberty Head. "Humbert Eagle Reverse. MS-63 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Bright and lustrous yellow gold with a hint of olive. Somewhat prooflike with lightly frosted motifs and mirrored fields. Another of the popular and exciting rarities in the series. Despite the relisting at Rarity-6 (formerly Rarity-7- in the Texas Collection, 1992), BG-436 is still a highly sought-after variety, an individual type within the fascinating series that is the California Small Denomination gold series, and always in demand as such. The present maker, "Unknown Maker B," was also responsible for the very rare octagonal dollar, BG-534. The present variety is about as rare and desirable as a Rarity-6 issue can be-we expect serious bidding activity will prove our point.

**Maker:** Unknown Maker "B" (possibly Auguste Dubois).

**Weight:** 0.64 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.2 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Small federal-style head of Liberty to left, 13 six-pointed stars around, star 1 horizontally opposite point of bust, point of coronet between stars 5 and 6, double line at top of coronet, star 8 opposite upper hair bun, star 9 opposite lower bun, lowest curl points to star 11.

**Reverse:** Central eagle motif, wings raised, olive branch in left talons, shield in right talons, no scroll in beak, HALF to left, DOL. Above, date to right. All letters and numerals nicely formed and nicely spaced.

**Die State I.** Perfect dies.

**PCGS Population:** 2; none finer!

*From New England Rare Coin Auctions' sale of January 1981, Lot 1543.*



## Popular 1853-54 Octagonal \$1 Issue

"Humbert" Eagle Reverse

BG-501, Low Rarity-5



99 (1853-54) Octagonal \$1. BG-501. Low Rarity-5. Liberty Head. "Humbert" Eagle reverse. AU-55 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Deep violet and electric blue highlights contrast nicely with deep orange gold high points. Don't let the modest rarity rating fool you into thinking that this variety is a cinch to locate, for its status as a distinct type coin places it high on many want lists, creating a strong demand for examples in all grades. For the record, the present specimen has been in Jay Roe's collection since 1979, the year he purchased it directly from Art Kagin - which makes for a grand entwining of two names that will always be associated with gold coin issues of the California Gold Rush. Also, BG-501 is one of the issues that employed a high-karat gold plating on a low-karat gold core. A nice example of a scarce octagonal dollar issue, one that is nearly always encountered in circulated grades such as represented by the present specimen.

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 1.06 grams.

**Diameter:** 12.3 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Large federal-style head of Liberty to left, 13 six-pointed stars around, stars 1, 8, 11, 12, and 13 broadly repunched, star 5 close to tip of coronet, star 13 nearly touches underside of truncation.

**Reverse:** Central eagle motif closely resembling the Augustus Humbert \$50 gold "slugs" of the era, perched on a small tree (olive), wings raised, arrow in left talons, shield in right talons, scroll in beak wraps around wings in various places, CALIFORNIA GOLD, arcs above, ONE. DOL. curves below. In CALIFORNIA, C distant and leaning left, AL nicely spaced, I small and close to L, IFOR wide, F low and leans crazily left, nearly touches wing tip, O wodely double punched. G of GOLS leans slightly left and resembles a C more than a G, O large and slightly high. ONE wide, DOL evenly spaced.

**Die State I.** Faint reverse die crack at 3:00 to upper right tip of G.

**PCGS Population:** 8; 25 finer.

*Purchased from Kagin's, Des Moines, Iowa, April 23, 1979; ex Art Kagin Collection.*

## Important 1853 Eagle Reverse Octagonal

\$1 Rarity

BG-502, Rarity-8

One of Just Three Known

Famous Blundered Reverse



100 1853 Octagonal \$1. BG-502. Rarity-8. Liberty Head. "Humbert" Eagle reverse. AU-58 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Bright and lustrous deep yellow gold with warm orange highlights in the protected areas. Blundered, crude reverse die, CALIFORNIA COLD in reverse legend, 53 in date inverted and reversed (date reads 18 followed by an inverted 35-if reading the date with the rim toward you, the date actually reads 3581!). Possibly the first of Frontier, Deviercy & Co.'s gold dollar issues, certainly their crudest by any measure. Regardless of your outlook on the beauty of the issue, its rarity also serves to set BG-502 apart from much of the series. Just *three* examples of the variety are known, with the present piece the middle of the three where grade is concerned. Interestingly, the finest of the three is a specimen that was, according to a note by Bob Leonard in the current edition of the Breen-Gillio reference, "A Walter Breen cherry pick which he suppressed in the first edition to avoid alerting the seller." Another classic rarity from the Dr. John Westal Rowe Collection makes a brief appearance here before it settles comfortably into its new cabinet.

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 1.14 grams.

**Diameter:** 12.5 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-501.

**Reverse:** Central eagle motif closely resembling the Augustus Humbert \$50 gold "slugs" of the era, perched on a small tree (olive), wings raised, shield in right talons, scroll in beak wraps around wings in various places, CALIFORNIA COLD and date arc above, ONE DOL curves below. The eagle's feathers are a series of thin, straight line groups rather than the fine, individual feathers found on BG-501, for instance. In CALIFORNIA, C nearly closed and slightly resembling a G, A high, attached to C, and leaning dramatically left, LIF all lean dramatically left and are progressively lower, F boldly repunched, O high and repunched, RN low and joined, R balances on tip of ribbon, N thin and spindly, I distant and upright, blob at top (repunching?), A also distant, repunched, horizontal die line runs through top of letter. In COLD, CO high, C leans left, O filled, L repunched and low, touches top of wing, D touches wing and leans right. 18 in date nicely spaced, long tip to 1, 8 slightly high, 53 actually an inverted 35! Letters in ONE spaced widely and progressively lower from left to right, O broken at bottom, spindly N repunched, E filled and probably from the F punch, DOL nicely spaced, all letters lean slightly left, D filled.

**PCGS Population:** 2; 1 finer (MS-62). PCGS has graded only 3 examples of this variety.

*Purchased from Ed Jacobs / Apollo, July 26, 1994.*



## Another Rare 1853 Eagle Reverse Octagonal \$1

BG-503, Rarity-7

High Condition Census



**101 1853 Octagonal \$1. BG-503. Rarity-7. Liberty Head. "Humbert" Eagle reverse. AU-58 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Bright and lustrous yellow gold with strong olive highlights. Some striking weakness at the reverse center, as always seen for the variety. F.C.C. Boyd, a collector active circa 1910-46, is credited with discovering this rare variety (though obviously not called BG-503 during his day), and had two examples in his collection! Currently a desirable rarity, with the present specimen being one of just 10 examples of BG-503 enumerated in Bob Leonard's census. Of those, the present coin is listed in the "third finest" spot, tied with another of the same assigned grade. Of the remaining six examples, at least one is noted as being "ex-jewelry," and Leonard also gives his customary caution about duplications, stating that "These probably include F.C.C. Boyd's two, and may include up to four duplicates." Even if *all 10* of the listed specimens were known to be individual pieces, the variety would still be impressively rare, and we suspect that the bidding flurry that accompanies the present coin as it crosses the auction block will be testimony to that fact.

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 1.11 grams.

**Diameter:** 12.2 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-501.

**Reverse:** Similar to BG-502. Central eagle motif closely resembling the Augustus Humbert \$50 gold "slugs" of the era, perched on a small tree (olive), wings raised, shield in right talons, scroll in beak wraps around wings in various places, CALIFORNIA GOLD and date arc above, ONE DOL. curves below. The eagle's feathers are a series of thin, straight line groups, and now even the eagle's head has deteriorated artistically to a simple group of lines that resembles the frayed end of a large rope more than any bird that ever took wing. CALIFORNIA a mere jumble of letters, all touching and few in line, some high, others low, many variously tilted at strange angles, O and N dramatically repunched several times each, RN resting on tip of wing. COLD also jumbled, C very low, O very high, OL wide, LD close, L higher than D, D embedded in wing. Date numerals wide with 53 closest, 53 touch at top, 3 leans left. Letters in ONE (if indeed it is an E punch and not an F punch) all repunched, first in the dentils (!) then higher, now touching the rock above, letters in DOL also repunched in a similar manner.

**PCGS Population:** 2; none finer! PCGS has graded only 2 examples of this variety.

*Purchased from Kagin's, Des Moines, Iowa, April 23, 1979; ex Art Kagin Collection.*

## Extremely Rare \$50 Slug Look-alike Reverse



**102 1854 Octagonal \$1. BG-504. Rarity-5-. Liberty Head. "Humbert" Eagle reverse. MS-62 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Rich yellow gold with frosty motifs set against mirrored fields. Deep golden highlights glow warmly in the recessed areas. An example of BG-504 was illustrated on the cover of *Dye's Gold and Silver Coin Chart Manual* (1854-1855), there valued as 98¢ "circulating money;" by 1861 the value had been reduced to just 65¢ in that periodical. A moderately scarce variety, one that is frequently selected to represent the type when type sets of California Small Denomination gold coins are assembled. What better way to spruce up your type collection than with a coin from the Jay Roe Collection!

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 1.05 grams.

**Diameter:** 12.5 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-501, here repolished and showing signs of rust on the devices.

**Reverse:** Similar to BG-502. Central eagle motif closely resembling the Augustus Humbert \$50 gold "slugs" of the era, perched on a small tree (olive), wings raised, shield and arrows in right talons, scroll in beak wraps around wings in various places, CALIFORNIA GOLD and date arc above, ONE DOL. curves below. A six-pointed star is at 4:00, another at 8:00 between the legends. The eagle's feathers are now recognizable as individual feathers finely engraved into the die. CALIFORNIA nicely presented for the most part, CAL at an angle to IFO, all nicely spaced, OR wide, NIA at an angle to R. GO in GOLD close, bottom of O broken, OL wide, LD close, L repunched, D close to tip of wing. In date numerals, 1 distant and slightly low, 854 nicely spaced and even. In ONE, ON wide, NE nicely spaced, in DOL, D wide, OL close, O patched at top and bottom.

**Die State III.** Reverse crack from rim passes through star, then crosses field to scroll.

**PCGS Population:** 8; 5 finer (all MS-63).

*From New England Rare Coin Auctions' sale of January 1982, Lot 1787.*





**103 1853-FD Octagonal \$1. BG-505. Rarity-4. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A satiny yellow gold specimen with frosty motifs, orange highlights at the rims, and lively prooflike reflectivity in the fields. Perhaps the most readily available of the FD dollars, yet still a variety worthy of pursuit by collectors, especially when as nice as the Jay Roe specimen.

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 0.98 grams.

**Diameter:** 12.0 mm.

**Edge:**

**Obverse:** Small federal-style head of Liberty to left, 10 six-pointed stars around, star 4 relatively close to tip of coronet.

**Reverse:** Central beaded circle, a six-pointed star, CALIFORNIA, two more six-pointed stars, GOLD. around, maker's mark FD below, 1 / DOLLAR / 1853 on three lines within beaded circle. CALIFORNIA nearly spaced for the most part, FO low, ON slightly wide, I punch also used as 1 in denomination. GOLD widely but evenly spaced, G inverted (!), D lightly punched, appears broken at top and bottom. FD maker's mark widely spaced, D leans left. In denomination, 1 (from an I punch) leans left, DOLLAR irregularly spaced, D low and leaning right, DO evenly spaced, OLL wide, first L higher than O or following L, LAR joined at bases, A leans left, foot of R nearly touches bead in circle. Date numerals evenly spaced, 1 larger than 853, 85 a trifle wide, 5 low and leans left.

**Die State II.** Reverse polished, ORN and GOLD somewhat fragmented, beads smaller.

**PCGS Population:** 23; 20 finer.

*Purchased from New England Rare Coin Gallery, February 1, 1978.*

## Rare 1854-FD Liberty Octagonal \$1

BG-506, Rarity-7

Condition Census Quality

The Doering Plate Coin



**104 1854-FD Octagonal \$1. BG-506. Rarity-7. Liberty Head. MS-61 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Lustrous yellow gold with olive highlights and satiny, prooflike fields. A pleasing example of yet *another* rarity from the holdings of Dr. John Westal Rowe, the present specimen listed as the *second finest* example of the variety in Bob Leonard's listing of ten known specimens. Of those 10 pieces, just three are called Mint State, and a few of the circulated specimens have scratches or other light detractors. And, as nearly always noted, Leonard's census may include duplication. The present piece was purchased from David Doering and was the plate illustration in the Doering reference. Off the market for 19 years, the current rarity comes to you with the Doering-Roe pedigree, and affords an interested specialist the opportunity to add his or her name to that illustrious pedigree listing.

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 0.93 grams.

**Diameter:** 12.1 mm.

**Edge:**

**Obverse:** Same as BG-505.

**Reverse:** Central beaded circle, a six-pointed star, CALIFORNIA, two more six-pointed stars, GOLD. around, maker's mark FD below, 1 / DOLLAR / 1854 on three lines within beaded circle. CALIFORNIA neatly spaced for the most part, some letters softly punched in die and faint, final A distant. GOLD widely but evenly spaced, GO lean left, O faint, I bold, D faint. FD maker's mark widely spaced. In denomination, 1 (from an I punch) high and central, DOLLAR irregularly spaced, DO joined, OL wide, LL joined, second L low, LA wide, AR close. Date numerals small and faint, 18 wide, 85 evenly spaced, 54 close, 5 low and tilted left.

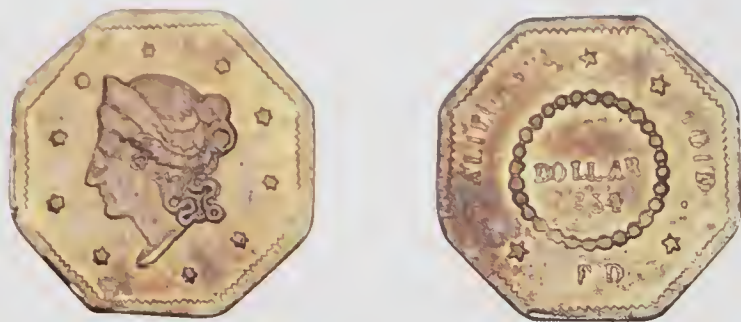
**PCGS Population:** 1; none finer. PCGS has graded only 3 examples of this variety, this being the finest of those.

*Purchased from David Doering, July 12, 1984.*



## Prized 1854-FD Octagonal Liberty \$1 Rarity

BG-507, High Rarity-6 to Low Rarity-7



- 105 1854-FD Octagonal \$1. BG-507. Rarity-6+. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Deep gold with orange and olive highlights. Strong underlying lustre present on prooflike surfaces. One of 15 examples of the issue enumerated by Bob Leonard in the new reference; a few of those pieces are damaged. The present coin is listed as number 11 on that census, as it was called "EF" when it appeared in the Roper Collection sale; now, through the miracle of modern grading practices, the Roper-Roe specimen is housed in a PCGS AU-58 holder. Fortunately, grades are close to meaningless when the rarity of the issue is concerned. Oh, and lest we forget to mention it, Leonard cautions us that the census for BG-507 shows that there is "Probably considerable duplication" among the 15 listed specimens. High Rarity-6 or Low Rarity-7, take your pick. Either way, an exciting bout of bidding activity is about to occur, so don't be timid or this rarity goes home with someone else!

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 0.94 grams.

**Diameter:** 12.0 mm.

**Edge:**

**Obverse:** Same as BG-505.

**Reverse:** Central beaded circle, a six-pointed star, CALIFORNIA, two more six-pointed stars, GOLD, around, maker's mark FD below, 1 / DOLLAR / 1854 on three lines within beaded circle. CALIFORNIA neatly spaced for the most part, some letters softly punched in die and faint, final A distant. GOLD widely but evenly spaced, GO lean left, O faint, L bold, D faint. FD maker's mark widely spaced. In denomination, 1 (from an I punch) high and central, DOLLAR irregularly spaced, DO joined, OL wide, LL joined, second L low, LA wide, A repunched, AR close. Date numerals small and faint, 18 wide, 85 evenly spaced, 54 close, 5 low and tilted left.

**PCGS Population:** 3; 1 finer (the best is a single MS-62). PCGS has graded only 7 examples of this variety.

*From Stack's sale of the Roper Collection, March 1984, Lot 295.*



- 106 1854-FD Octagonal \$1. BG-508. Rarity-4+. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. An impressive olive gold cameo with frosty motifs and mirrored fields, a coin with an overall appearance that bespeaks a much finer grade upon first glance. A natural planchet flaw, as struck, is noted above Liberty's head at the 1:00 position. Only moderately scarce as a variety, but still a desirable variety when found so fine.

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 1.00 grams.

**Diameter:** 12.0 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-505.

**Reverse:** Central beaded circle, CALIFORNIA, a five-pointed star and GOLD around, maker's mark FD and a five-pointed star below, 1 / DOLLAR / 1854 on three lines within beaded circle. CALIFORNIA neatly spaced for the most part, some uneven letters at ORN, top of O weak, GOLD widely but evenly spaced, GO lean slightly left, O faint, L bold, D faint. FD maker's mark widely spaced, star distant from D. In denomination, 1 (from an I punch) high and central, DOLLAR shows fairly even spacing, O low, LL close and tilted upward to right, A higher than R. Wide space between 1 and 8, 854 close.

**PCGS Population:** 12; 8 finer (all MS-63).

*Purchased from New England Rare Coin Gallery, February 1, 1978.*

## Uncirculated 1854-FD Octagonal Liberty \$1

BG-509, Rarity-6

Plate Coin for the Second Edition of Breen-Gillio



- 107 1854-FD Octagonal \$1. BG-509. Rarity-6. Liberty Head. MS-61 (PCGS).** Bright yellow gold with satiny, reflective fields and lightly frosted motifs. While not a major rarity within the series, BG-509 is cause for more than casual interest owing to its Rarity-6 status. Add the lively lustre and generous deal of eye appeal afforded by the present specimen, and the stage is set for strong bidding competition.

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 0.99 grams.

**Diameter:** 12.1 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

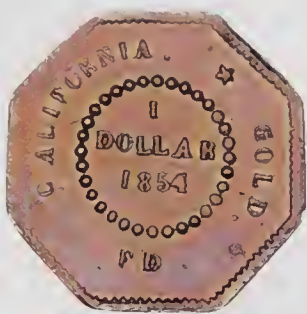
**Obverse:** Same as BG-505, here repolished and with several stars small and weak, especially the star below Liberty's bust. Also, portions of Liberty's portrait are now polished from the die as well.

**Reverse:** Central beaded circle, CALIFORNIA, followed by a faint, tiny period and a five-pointed star, GOLD, followed by a faint, tiny period and another five-pointed star, maker's mark FD around, 1 / DOLLAR / 1854 on three lines within beaded circle. CALIFORNIA neatly spaced for the most part, letters weak and crude, C a trifle wide, O broken at top, N low, letters in GOLD weak and crude, widely spaced, OL widest, top of O broken, maker's mark FD wide and right of center, star to right at 4:00. Upper star in legend with point toward beaded circle. In the denomination, 1 high and central, DOLLAR nicely spaced for the most part though a trifle left, LLA lean slightly left and slightly higher from left to right, R low and broken at top. Date numerals widely but evenly spaced, 4 low and leaning slightly left.

**PCGS Population:** 2; 3 finer (the best is a single MS-63).

*Purchased from Arlington Coin and Stamp, July 30, 1981.*





**108 1854-FD Octagonal \$1. BG-510. Rarity-5-. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State I). Deep golden orange and violet iridescence on lustrous honey gold surfaces. Some frost on the devices contrasts nicely with the moderately reflective fields. Chicago collector-dealer Charles S. Wilcox, active in the 1890s, owned an example of the present variety; it was sold by S.H. and H. Chapman as Lot 998 in their November 1901 sale. Bob Leonard also notes that "F.C.C. Boyd had at least ten" of this variety in his extensive holdings. While not exceedingly rare, BG-510 is certainly scarce enough to warrant a spate of serious bidding from interested bidders.

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 1.09 grams.

**Diameter:** 12.1 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-505, here repolished again.

**Reverse:** Similar to BG-509, but large period after CALIFORNIA and GOLD, FD central below beaded circle, solitary five-pointed star between CALIFORNIA and GOLD.

**PCGS Population:** 7; 4 finer (the best are 3 in MS-64).

*From Harmer-Rooke's sale of February 1978, Lot 71.*

## BG-511

### Questionable Overdate



**109 "1855/4"-FD Octagonal \$1. BG-511. Rarity-4+. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State I of the dies). In this state, the low portions of the face have been polished off, but the crack of State II at the second star has not yet developed. According to Breen-Gillio, these are usually gold-plated over a baser gold core. This is a choice example, with bright surfaces and a quality that ranks near the top for the variety.

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 0.85 grams.

**Diameter:** 12.2 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Liberty Head, surrounded by 10 stars.

**Reverse:** Similar to BG-510, but NOT the same (numerous differences in positions of the lettering prove otherwise). This brings into question the overdate. If this is not the reverse of BG-510, then this is not necessarily an 1855/4, and may in fact be an 1854/3, or simply and 1855 with a heavily repunched final 5.

**PCGS Population:** 15; 6 finer (all MS-63).

## Finest Known BG-512

The only Mint State Example Known  
Pedigreed to the Garrett collection



**110 1856 Octagonal \$1. BG-512. Rarity-7-. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A beautiful piece with a matte texture on the front and bright surfaces on the back. Like BG-512, this variety is usually gold-plated over a baser gold core, often resulting in blistering or loss of the plating. In this case, the surfaces are nearly perfect. Extremely rare – 11 different examples are enumerated in Breen-Gillio and to date, PCGS has graded only 5 examples, this being the finest by a full five points! A wonderful opportunity for the advanced collector.

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 0.59 grams.

**Diameter:** 12.0 mm.

**Edge:** Weakly reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-511, now heavily rusted.

**Reverse:** Similar to the other Frontier, Deviercy & Co. "Beaded Circle" reverses but, for some reason, without the FD "mintmark."

**PCGS Population:** 1; none finer.

*Purchased from D. Clark White on September 17, 1990. Earlier from our sale of the Garrett collection, Part IV, March 26, 1981, Lot 2208, probably acquired prior to 1923 by John Work Garrett.*

## Extremely Rare BG-513

### One of Only Three Known Examples



**111 1854 GL - FD Octagonal \$1. BG-513. Rarity-8. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Toned in deep, reddish-gold colors, with scattered blue highlights at the rims. An outstanding opportunity for the specialist, as only two confirmed examples are known of this variety (with a third reported by Jay Rowe himself). Breen-Gillio suggest that this piece was a rejected pattern (along with BG-605 and the unlocated BG-606) for another firm or jeweler with the initials "GL." Clearly, the dies were made by the firm of Frontier, Deviercy & Co. – the obverse appears on BG-501-504 (combined with "Humbert" reverses) and this reverse has the faint FD "mintmark" of the firm. In our analysis of this piece, three questions remain: 1) Was this a pattern piece made by Frontier, Deviercy & Co. for sale to another firm?, 2) Was this a regular issue made by Frontier, Deviercy & Co. for another firm, it's present rarity the result of the eventual destruction of nearly every piece made?, or 3) Do the letters "GL" really represent the initials of another firm or are they an abbreviation of some other words?

**PCGS Population:** 1; none other graded by PCGS.

**Maker:** G.L. (George Ladd?, by Frontier, Deviercy & Co.).

**Weight:** 1.15 grams.

**Diameter:** 12.5 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-501.

**Reverse:** Denomination spelled DOLLARD. Crude wreath with five stars beneath. CALIFORNIA GOLD G.L. FD wrap around the top of the wreath. This was the only Frontier, Deviercy & Co. octagonal gold dollar with a wreath reverse.

**PCGS Population:** 1; none finer. The only example graded by PCGS

*From our sale of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. collection, Part I, May 1999, Lot 2740. Purchase by Mr. Bass in 1975 from Ronald J. Gillio.*

## Condition-Rarity BG-514

### The First of M. Deriberpie's Gold Dollars



**112 1853-DERI Octagonal \$1. BG-514. Rarity-5+. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (State I). A choice piece with bright surfaces and a soft, delicate toning. An important condition-rarity; easily one of the top 10 examples known of the variety (and quite possibly the top five). Struck from perfect dies, without the vertical crack that later runs from the truncation through the first star to the rim. On December 1, 1853, the *S.S. Winfield Scott* sank with at least one of these on board. The recovery of that piece confirmed the validity of the date on the coin.

**Maker:** M. Deriberpie.

**Weight:** 1.14 grams.

**Diameter:** 12.0 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Liberty head, leaning back, surrounded by 8 stars. Her coronet points to the top edge, just left of center.

**Reverse:** No reverse stars. Denomination and date inside a circle of beads. The words CALIFORNIA GOLD wrap around the top of the circle, DERI appears beneath.

**PCGS Population:** 4; 2 finer (both MS-64).



### Extremely Rare BG-515

The Only Example Certified by PCGS



**113 1853-DERI Octagonal \$1. BG-515. Rarity-7. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Rich, yellow-gold colors, with a touch of reddish toning. Minor rim bruise at 2:00 on the reverse. This piece is attractive not only for its quality (one of two examples known in Mint State), but for its rarity. Nine examples are listed in Breen-Gillio, but to date, this is the only example that has been certified by PCGS. Such opportunities rarely present themselves and should not be missed – once sold, this coin may not reappear again for decades. Keep in mind that this particular example has been off the market since 1979!

**Maker:** M. Deriberpie.

**Weight:** 1.14 grams.

**Diameter:** 12.0 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Similar to BG-513, but with the head tilted a little more forward, such that the tip of the coronet nearly touches the nearby star.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-514.

**PCGS Population:** 1; the only one graded.

*Purchased from Robert Steinberg on December 17, 1979.*

### Elusive BG-517

One of Approximately 10 Examples Known



**115 1853-DERI Octagonal \$1. BG-517. Rarity-6+. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State I). A choice example that comes very close to making the Mint State grade, and deservedly so. This variety was discovered by Augustus Heaton before 1907 (Heaton being the man who introduced collectors to mintmarks in the late 1800s). Very rare – PCGS has certified only six examples, all crowded together in a rather narrow range from AU-55 to MS-61.

**Maker:** M. Deriberpie.

**Weight:** 1.17 grams.

**Diameter:** 12.0 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-516.

**Reverse:** Stylistically similar to BG-516, but a different die. Here, the lettering is complete, albeit crude. Numerous cracks as per Breen-Gillio. Traces of a misplaced AR can be seen above LLA of DOLLAR.

We're a little confused by the emission sequence proposed by the authors of Breen-Gillio, where the BG-518 strikings are sandwiched between States I and II of BG-517. Comparing the BG-517 (State I) and BG-518 (State II) in this sale, the former appears to have been struck after the latter, leading us to conclude that all of the BG-518's were struck before any of the BG-517's.

**PCGS Population:** 2; 3 finer (the best being a single MS-61).

### The Unique BG-516

The First Appearance Since Its Discovery in 1977!  
Plate Coin for the Second Edition of Breen-Gillio



**114 1853-DERI Octagonal \$1. BG-516. Unique. Liberty Head. Net VF-35.** The only example known of this variety, first discovered in 1977 by Jay Rowe and off the market ever since then. Evenly worn and relatively problem-free except that the top edge was once soldered. Details of Extremely Fine, but lowered to Very Fine for the surfaces and defects. Condition irrelevant because of the unique status of this variety. A remarkable little coin that will generate big excitement when it crosses the auction block.

**Maker:** M. Deriberpie.

**Weight:** 1.13 grams.

**Diameter:** 12.0 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Liberty head surrounded by eight tiny stars. The authors of Breen-Gillio attribute the small size of the stars to drastic overpolishing of the dies, but the head and border denticles are as strong as on any other DERI variety, thus the stars were either weakly stamped into the dies, or the head and denticles were recut after the dies were polished. Also used on BG-517.

**Reverse:** Unfinished L's (diagnostic of this reverse and variety), causing the legend to read CALIFORNIA GOID!

*Purchased from David Bland on November 19, 1977 by Jay Rowe, who recognized it as a previously unknown variety.*

### Rare BG-518



**116 1853-DERI Octagonal \$1. BG-518. Rarity-5. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State I, but the book is incorrect – the coin and the illustration in the book clearly show the obverse crack from the tip of the bust to the rim). Bright yellow-gold, with full, original lustre. A choice piece that comes very close to being in top condition for the variety. See our comments under BG-517 concerning the emission sequence for BG-517 and BG-518.

**Maker:** M. Deriberpie.

**Weight:** 1.13 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.9 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Similar to BG-514, in that the head is tilted slightly backwards, but in this case the hair bun butts up against a star.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-517.

**PCGS Population:** 6; 3 finer (the best being a single MS-64).





**117 1853-DERI Octagonal \$1. BG-519. Rarity-4-. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Rich, coppery toning with yellow highlights scattered about. Minor flaw at the corner at 4:30; otherwise, nicely struck and choice. This is the most common of the Deriberpie octagonal gold dollars, but this one ranks near the top of the condition census. BG-519 was another variety that was recovered from the wreck of the *S.S. Winfield Scott* (two examples were found), confirming the 1853 date of issue.

**Maker:** M. Deriberpie.

**Weight:** 1.13 grams.

**Diameter:** 12.0 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Nearly identical to BG-518, but the stars are oriented differently.

**Reverse:** 1 below N of CALIFORNIA, the O in CALIFORNIA is shifter closer to the F and away from the R, perfect O's in legend.

**PCGS Population:** 4; 2 finer (the best being a single MS-65).

### Incredibly Rare 1853 Octagonal Gold Dollar BG-520, Rarity 8

One of only Two Examples Known To Exist



**118 1853-DERI Octagonal \$1. BG-520. Rarity-8. Liberty Head. EF-45.** cleaned. The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Lightly polished, yellow-gold surfaces. An incredible opportunity for the advanced specialist to acquire a variety that has only been known since 1982, when it was first discovered by William O'Connor. Mr. Rowe purchased this example in 1990 and no other examples have been found since. Yes, this coin has seen its share of circulation, but the condition pales in light of this variety's extreme rarity.

**Maker:** M. Deriberpie.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** 8 stars, all crowded close against the border denticles. Correct head orientation (coronet tip points to corner).

**Reverse:** DOLLAR slants slightly down to the left. The circle of beads is connected in an almost solid line and appears rough and ragged. This reverse was also used on BG-521.

No examples of this variety have been certified by PCGS.

*Purchased from Paul Bosco on August 22, 1990.*

### Exceedingly Rare BG-521

One of Two Known Examples

Plate Coin for the Second Edition of Breen-Gillio



**119 1853-DERI Octagonal \$1. BG-521. Rarity-8. Liberty Head. Net VF-25;** Pale, yellow-green surfaces. Polished long ago, now with an unnatural lustre on both sides. Nicely detailed, but the overall grade is impacted by a spot of solder on the reverse, affecting the 8 and 5 of the date. Here again, condition is almost irrelevant, because this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to own this variety. First discovered by David or Susan Doering in 1980, while cataloguing the Grafton collection for Kurt Krueger (what a thrill that must have been – to be a specialist in a series and to discover a completely new variety – we've experienced that thrill ourselves a time or two)! In point of fact, a Doering has had their hand in both examples known of this variety, first in discovering this specimen and second, in selling another example to William O'Connor circa 1984. Remember, once this coin is sold, it's gone, perhaps for a very long time.

**Maker:** M. Deriberpie.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Nearly identical to BG-520, but most of the stars are oriented differently. This obverse was also used on BG-522.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-520.

No examples of this variety have been certified by PCGS.

*From Kurt Krueger's "Grafton collection" sale, May 10, 1980, Lot 577. Earlier from an old Wisconsin collection, thence to Konicki Koin Kompany of Milwaukee, WI.*



**120 1853-DERI Octagonal \$1. BG-522. Rarity-6+. Liberty Head. Net EF-40,** harshly cleaned, but still very attractive. The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State II). The earliest auction appearance for this variety is Thomas Elder's sale of the Comstock-Gunther collection (Lot 1079) on January 26, 1935. To date, PCGS has certified only 10 examples of this date, including only three Mint State examples.

**Maker:** M. Deriberpie.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-521.

**Reverse:** DOLLAR slants down towards the left, the O of CALIFORNIA appears to be a corrected C. This reverse was also used on BG-523 and BG-524.

**Die State II:** Light crack from the rim to lower hairbun.



## Elusive BG-523



- 121 1853-DERI Octagonal \$1. BG-523. Rarity-5. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A beautiful, orange gold example, here in an early die state lacking the cracks and cuds that eventually appear. This is one of only a handful of Mint State examples known of this rare variety – among those, it ranks as third finest known. According to the Breen-Gillio reference (second edition), "This type is listed among the 'California Coins' in Montroville Wilson Dickeson, M.D., *The American Numismatist Manual*: J.B. Lippincott & Co., 1859...p. 226 and Plate XVIII, 14. Though the date is given correctly in the text as 1853, the artist drew the date as 1857 on the plate, mistaking the flat-topped 3 for a 7."

**Maker:** M. Deriberpie.

**Weight:** 1.00 grams.

**Diameter:** 12.0 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Similar to BG-519 in that stars nearly touch the tip of the bust and the hair bun. Early die states are perfect; in its terminal state, the die shows a full, retained cud at the 7th star.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-522, also used on BG-524.

**PCGS Population:** 1; 2 finer (both MS-63).



- 122 1853-DERI Octagonal \$1. BG-524. Rarity-6+. Liberty Head. Net VF-30.** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Pale, green-gold surfaces. Muted lustre from an old cleaning. As of this writing, PCGS has certified only nine examples of this variety, the finest of which is a single MS-64. This variety was discovered prior to 1970 by Kenneth W. Lee. A nice rarity for the advanced specialist.

**Maker:** M. Deriberpie.

**Weight:** 1.09 grams.

**Diameter:** 12.1 mm.

**Edge:** Weakly reeded.

**Obverse:** Similar to the obverses of BG-520 and BG-521 in that most stars are close to the border, but in this case, the second and third stars are move inward. This obverse was also used on BG-525 (where combined with a DERIB reverse).

**Reverse:** Same as BG-522.



- 123 1853-DERIB Octagonal \$1. BG-525. Rarity-6+. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Light coppery toning over still-bright, yellow-gold surfaces. Numerous obverse die cracks. An example of this variety was included among coins recovered from the *S.S. Winfield Scott*. This fact, combined with the low grade of most known examples, confirms that the dating on the coin is correct and indicates that this variety probably circulated as actual money.

**Maker:** M. Deriberpie.

**Weight:** 1.11 grams.

**Diameter:** 12.1 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-524.

**Reverse:** DERIB, the only gold dollar reverse die with this abbreviation. This reverse was also used on BG-525.

**PCGS Population:** 3; 3 finer (the finest being two in MS-62).

## Tied for Finest Graded by PCGS



- 124 1853-DERIB Octagonal \$1. BG-526. Rarity-6+. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State II of the dies). Bright, yellow-gold color, with no toning on either side. This was another variety recovered from the shipwreck of the *S.S. Winfield Scott*, again confirming the date and the fact that these coins actually circulated as money (important to purists who disdain the later issues that were made primarily for collectors or for jewelry purposes).

**Maker:** M. Deriberpie.

**Weight:** 1.03 grams.

**Diameter:** 12.2 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** 4th, 5th, and 6th stars undersized or misshapen, the 4th just a tiny speck compared any of the others (diagnostic of this die). Early states show fine cracks, leading to an eventual shattering of the die. This was the only use of this obverse die.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-525. Late states of the reverse show numerous rim breaks.

**Die State II:** Shattered obverse; reverse with numerous rim breaks.

**PCGS Population:** 2; none finer.



## The Only Mint State Example Known



**125 1854-DERI Octagonal \$1. BG-527. Rarity-7. Liberty Head. MS-61 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Pleasing, semi-reflective, yellow-gold surfaces. A wonderful opportunity for the specialist to acquire this important, condition-rarity – it's the finest of only five examples certified by PCGS and the finest of the nine specimens listed in the Breen-Gillio reference.

**Maker:** M. Deriberpie.

**Weight:** 1.06 grams.

**Diameter:** 12.3 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** A nicely balanced and well-executed die, with well-placed stars surrounding a perfectly-centered head of Liberty.

**Reverse:** The first 1854-dated DERI die. Properly formed L's. The L of GOLD and ER are fused with the rim (diagnostic of the die). This was the only use of this reverse.

**PCGS Population:** 1; none finer. PCGS has graded only 5 examples of this variety.

*Purchased from Doering in 1984.*



**126 1854-DERI Octagonal \$1. BG-528. Rarity-6. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Pale green-gold surfaces. Minor surface friction, otherwise problem-free. Among the top eight examples certified by PCGS.

**Maker:** M. Deriberpie.

**Weight:** 1.09 grams.

**Diameter:** 12.1 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-527.

**Reverse:** Unfinished L's, resulting in the legend CALIFORNIA GOID. One star after GOID (differentiating this reverse from BG-529, which has two stars after GOID). This was the only use of this die.

**PCGS Population:** 6; 2 finer (the best being a single MS-62).

## Unique BG-529

Discovered by Jay Rowe in 1980



**127 1854-DERI Octagonal \$1. BG-529. Unique. Liberty Head. AU-50 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Muted lustre (although plenty remains), with a pale, green-gold color on both sides. Two minor scratches appear on the reverse, one of which can be seen plainly in the Breen-Gillio reference. Being unique, this is the only example certified by PCGS. Discovered by Jay Rowe in September 1980 - what an exciting moment that must have been. Perhaps the only moment that could be more exciting will be when you add this unique piece to your collection!

**Maker:** M. Deriberpie.

**Weight:** 1.08 grams.

**Diameter:** 12.3 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-528.

**Reverse:** Similar to BG-528's CALIFORNIA GOID reverse, but here with two stars after GOID. This was the only use of this die.

**PCGS Population:** 1; none finer.

*Purchased from Don Lynch of the San Jose Coin Shop on September 24, 1980.*



**128 1853-N Octagonal \$1. BG-530. Liberty Head. MS-61 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Soft, golden-green lustre and choice surfaces. Nice, uniform strike from well-executed dies (Nouizillet's dies were among the best of the Period One issues). BG-530 is one of the most common California small denomination gold coins, but a large majority of them are in circulated condition, making this one especially desirable. Over a dozen examples were found on the shipwreck of the *S.S. Winfield Scott*, indicating that this variety was intended to, and did indeed, circulate as money (something later issues cannot lay claim to).

**Maker:** Antoine Louis Nouizillet.

**Weight:** 1.16 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.8 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** One of only two obverse dies for octagonal gold dollars attributed to Nouizillet. Here, the tip of Liberty's coronet divides the stars into groups of six on the left and seven on the right. Stars on the right are evenly spaced (on the other obverse, the first star in the group on the right is placed far to the left). This was the only use of this obverse die.

**Reverse:** The only reverse die for an octagonal gold dollar "signed" by Nouizillet (the other two reverses are wreath types with no N "mintmark", linked to Nouizillet because they share an obverse die with BG-531, which does have a "signed" reverse). This die was also used on BG-531.

**PCGS Population:** 24; 44 finer.





- 129 1853 Octagonal \$1. BG-530. Liberty Head. Net F-15, details of Extremely Fine, holed at the top for suspension, with an ancient gold loop still attached. Mr. Rowe seemed to have an affinity for the odd and curious piece, as his collection includes a number of such holed pieces, love tokens, jewelry pieces, etc. His passion for the series went well beyond the normal varieties and embraced the unusual, as well.**

**Maker:** Antoine Louis Nouizillet.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** One of only two obverse dies for octagonal gold dollars attributed to Nouizillet. Here, the tip of Liberty's coronet divides the stars into groups of six on the left and seven on the right. Stars on the right are evenly spaced (on the other obverse, the first star in the group on the right is placed far to the left). This was the only use of this obverse die.

**Reverse:** The only reverse die for an octagonal gold dollar "signed" by Nouizillet (the other two reverses are wreath types with no N "mintmark", linked to Nouizillet because they share an obverse die with BG-531, which does have a "signed" reverse). This die was also used on BG-531.



- 130 1853-N Octagonal \$1. BG-531. Rarity-4. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Pleasing, orange-gold colors. Another high-quality product from Antoine Nouizillet.

This variety was found on the wreck of the *S.S. Winfield Scott*, which went down in 1853, confirming the date on the coin and its intended use as money.

**Maker:** Antoine Louis Nouizillet.

**Weight:** 1.12 grams.

**Diameter:** 12.0 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Similar to BG-530, except that the first star in the grouping on the right is placed far to the left, right above the junction of the hair and coronet.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-530.

**PCGS Population:** 27; 29 finer.



- 131 1854 Octagonal \$1. BG-532. Rarity-4-. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Minor surface wear, no obvious or distracting problems. Impressive, green-gold lustre. The vast majority of this variety is found in circulated condition, indicating extensive circulation and wide acceptance. This variety is attributed to Antoine Nouizillet despite the lack of his initial – a shared obverse confirms the attribution.

**Maker:** Antoine Louis Nouizillet.

**Weight:** 1.00 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.9 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-531.

**Reverse:** Wreath type reverse. No N "mintmark," but attributed to Nouizillet because of the obverse shared with BG-531. This was the only use of the reverse die.

**PCGS Population:** 29; 21 finer.



- 132 1855-NR Octagonal \$1. BG-533. Rarity-4-. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Bright reflective surfaces overlaid with a rich, coppery-orange toning. Like most of Nouizillet's products, this variety enjoyed extensive circulation, here despite a low weight (proof that Californians were desperate for money in the early 1850's). This Uncirculated example is an unusual exception: of the 93 examples certified by PCGS, only 29 examples have been graded MS-60 or better!

**Maker:** Nouizillet & Routhier.

**Weight:** 1.01 grams.

**Diameter:** 12.0 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-531, but polished, resulting in loss of details in front of the hair bun, around Liberty's ear, and around her lower lip.

**Reverse:** Stylistically similar to BG-532, the most obvious difference being the change in the date. Linked to Nouizillet because of the obverse die shared with BG-531. This was the only use of this reverse die.

**PCGS Population:** 13; 6 finer (all in MS-63 except for a single MS-66).

## Wonderful "Humbert" Reverse Gold Dollar

### Extremely Rare BG-534



**133 1854 Octagonal \$1. BG-534. Rarity-6+. Liberty Head. "Humbert" Eagle reverse. AU-58 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Coppery orange and green toning, with traces of lustre still remaining. One of the finest examples known of the variety. The back mimics the \$50 gold ingots put out by the U.S. Assay Office of Gold, perhaps in an attempt to lend an air of official sanction to the coins despite their purely private nature. As a type, the "Humbert" reverse varieties are among the most popular and desirable of all small denomination California gold pieces.

**Maker:** Unknown Maker "B" (Auguste Dubois?).

**Weight:** 1.14 grams.

**Diameter:** 12.6 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Large head of Liberty with an unusual curved nose. Stars unevenly spaced. This was the only use of this obverse die.

**Reverse:** "Humbert" style reverse with an heraldic eagle standing on a rock base holding a shield, arrows, and an olive branch. No scroll.

**PCGS Population:** 1; 2 finer (the best is a single MS-63). PCGS has graded only 8 examples of this variety.

## Extremely Rare BG-601

### Finest Known



**134 1854 Round \$1. BG-601. Rarity-8. Liberty Head. Net VF-25;** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Dullish lustre due to an old cleaning, plus the surfaces had a somewhat matte texture to begin with. Condition irrelevant because of the extreme rarity of this variety – certainly none have been found nicer. Leonard et al ascribe the rarity of this variety to the apparent troubles the makers had in getting gold plating to adhere to the baser gold core, implying that this might have been some sort of experimental variety used to help develop their final "system." To illustrate the rarity of this variety and for comparison purposes, the only example graded by PCGS is just AU-50.

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Edge:** Weakly reeded.

**PCGS Population:** 1; none finer and the only one graded.

*Purchased from the Goliad Corporation via Mike Brownlee on August 26, 1991. Previously from Robert Lecce, July 1991 as "Finest Known."*



**Very Rare BG-602**  
**Frontier & Deviercy's "Broad Bust"**



**135 1854-FD Round \$1. BG-602. Rarity-6+. Liberty Head. AU-50 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Impressive, coppery toning with green highlights surrounding all of the lettering and devices. A choice example of this unusual head device, used only here, on BG-603, but nowhere else on any other small denomination California gold pieces. The distinctive feature of this variety is the thick, wide bust and the heavy locks of hair. The overall appearance imitates Federal gold dollars of 1854, which probably helped the coins circulate. Very few collectors have had the privilege of owning this wonderful variety - here's your chance.

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 1.28 grams.

**Diameter:** 12.2 mm.

**Edge:** Weakly reeded.

**PCGS Population:** 2; 2 finer (the best is a single MS-61). PCGS has graded 4 examples of this variety.



**136 1854-FD Round \$1. BG-603. Rarity-6+. Liberty Head. AU-53 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Light, coppery toning on both sides. This must have been an incredible piece when first made, for the protected areas still show a flashy, prooflike brilliance. A choice example of this unique head device, the so-called "Broad Bust" (used only here and on BG-602).

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 1.22 grams.

**Diameter:** 12.3 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-602.

**PCGS Population:** 2; 1 finer (AU-58).

**Legendary 1853-GG BG-604 Rarity**  
**Finest by Far of Two Examples Known**  
**The Only Eagle Reverse Round Dollar**



**137 1853-GG Round \$1. BG-604. Rarity-8. Liberty Head. Crested Eagle reverse. MS-62 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Weakly struck at the center of the reverse but relatively sharp on the obverse. A fabulous example of what we call the "Crested Eagle" variety, featuring an eagle on the reverse with a curious plume on its head. Contrary to the description in Breen-Gillio (2nd edition), the eagle is not holding any arrows and its wings are open, not folded. This variety is legendary because of the unique design type on the reverse; something collectors have lusted after for years. We expect this to be one of the most actively pursued pieces in this sale and a centerpiece of the new owner's collection. This variety was first published in *The Coin Collector's Journal*, in March 1884.

**Maker:** Gaine, Guillemot & Co. (by Frontier, Deviercy & Co.).

**Weight:** 1.28 grams.

**Diameter:** 12.4 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**PCGS Population:** 1; none finer. The only example graded by PCGS!

*Purchased from the Goliad Corporation via Mike Brownlee on August 26, 1991 (the Breen-Gillio reference quotes the purchase price at an amazing \$100,000). Earlier ex Superior's "Club Cal Neva" sale, September 22, 1987, Lot 4487. Believed to be ex FCC Boyd, Numisma 5194.*



**Extremely Rare BG-605 Round \$1**

Third Finest Known  
Ex Garrett Collection



**138 1854-GL Round \$1. BG-605. Rarity-7-. Liberty Head. AU-55 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Exceeded only in quality by a single "raw" Uncirculated example and one PCGS AU-58. Mottled coppery red toning over pale green, native California gold. Breen-Gillio list 17 examples of the variety (the actual number is most likely fewer because of duplication), yet only six have passed muster at PCGS, causing us to believe that the variety is much rarer than generally believed. As a Federal gold dollar "look-alike," this is an important and desirable piece that will enhance the collection of any advanced collector.

X-ray fluorescence testing of this piece revealed a composition of 83% gold and 17% silver. Other pieces examined by Jay Rowe had a higher percentage of silver, resulting in a white color.

**Maker:** G.L. (George Ladd?, by Frontier, Deviercy & Co.).

**Weight:** 1.13 grams.

**Diameter:** 12.4 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**PCGS Population:** 1; 1 finer (AU-58). PCGS has graded only 6 examples of this variety.

*Purchased from the Golida Corporation via Mike Brownlee on August 26, 1991. Earlier from Superior's "Club Cal Neva" sale, September 22, 1987, Lot 4489 and our 1981 sale of the Garrett collection, Part IV, March 26, 1981, Lot 2220.*

**Exceedingly Rare BG-607**

Second Finest of Two Known Examples  
Plate Coin for the First and Second Editions of Breen-Gillio



**139 1857 Round \$1. BG-607. Rarity-8. Liberty Head. Net F-15.** One of only two known: a PCGS MS-63 and this example! Not a beauty: heavily cleaned and corroded, with traces of solder remaining at the top edge. But...try finding another! This variety first appeared publicly in 1935 and was unique until Jay found his in 1977. Don't let this incredible opportunity pass you by – you may not have another chance at this variety for many, many years.

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Edge:** Weakly reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-601.

*Purchased from the Liberty Coin Service on June 3, 1977 as an 1854!*



**140 1859-FD Octagonal 25¢. BG-701. Rarity-6-. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State II). Glittering Prooflike surfaces, most likely the result of heavy polishing of the worn, broken dies. Bright yellow in color. Light obverse clashmarks. The R of DOLLAR is not just repunched (as noted in Breen-Gillio 2) – it's actually triple-punched! An impressive example of this rare variety.

Here's the emission sequence for this series, based on our examination of each of the following varieties from the Rowe collection: BG-107, BG-704, BG-703A, BG-703, BG-701, BG-702, BG-706, BG-705, and BG-707.

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 0.30 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.2 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**PCGS Population:** 5; 15 finer.



**141 1859 Octagonal 25¢. BG-702. Rarity-3. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Bright, flashy surfaces and a delightful, pale green color. Leonard et al tell of a three-piece set of an 1859 quarter dollar, half dollar, and gold dollar acquired by the cabinet of the United States Mint in 1862 – for half face value!

Here's the emission sequence for this series, based on our examination of each of the following varieties from the Rowe collection: BG-107, BG-704, BG-703A, BG-703, BG-701, BG-702, BG-706, BG-705, and BG-707.

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 0.21 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.3 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-701.

**Die State I:** Same as BG-701, now ground down and repolished.

**PCGS Population:** 63; 16 finer (all MS-65).



**142 1859 Octagonal 25¢. BG-702. Rarity-3. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

A second example of this variety, retained by Jay as an example of State II. Brilliant, bright yellow surfaces. The die state information in the second edition of Breen-Gillio is switched – clearly the rusted, cracked obverse came much later than the unrusted version. The two States are so dissimilar that we could understand someone thinking they are two different varieties!

Here's the emission sequence for this series, based on our examination of each of the following varieties from the Rowe collection: BG-107, BG-704, BG-703A, BG-703, BG-701, BG-702, BG-706, BG-705, and BG-707.

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 0.18 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.2 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Die State II:** Heavily rusted obverse, with a crack running from the rim to the fourth star. The reverse has been polished even further, effacing much of the 9 and all of the high, first punching of the R of DOLLAR.

**PCGS Population:** 63; 16 finer (all MS-65).

### The Unique BG-703 Plate Coin for the Second Edition of Breen-Gillio



**143 1859 Octagonal 25¢. BG-703. Unique. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).**

Satiny, rose-gold surfaces. Not only unique but a nice one, as well. Extremely late state of the obverse, with impressive cracks and breaks, most likely the cause of the huge rarity of this variety. Jay Rowe discovered this variety in 1981 and no other example has appeared since, despite intense searching by a cadre of interested collectors. This may be your only chance to acquire this variety for decades to come!

Here's the emission sequence for this series, based on our examination of each of the following varieties from the Rowe collection: BG-107, BG-704, BG-703A, BG-703, BG-701, BG-702, BG-706, BG-705, and BG-707.

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 0.22 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.1 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-701.

**PCGS Population:** 1; none finer. The only example graded by PCGS!

*Discovered by Jay Rowe at the February 1981 convention of the Florida United Numismatists.*



**Extremely Rare 1856 Octagonal Liberty 25¢**

BG-703A, Rarity-8

Formerly BG-704A

Ex Texas, Heifetz, Lee Collections



**144 1856 Octagonal 25¢. BG-703A, formerly BG-107A or BG-704A. Rarity-8. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).** Plated in *California Pioneer Fractional Gold, Second Edition*. Rich honey gold with decided olive highlights. A great and desirable rarity in the California Small Denomination gold series, one of perhaps just *two* examples of the variety currently known! First discovered by Rick Bagg, along with Stuart Levine, when both were employed by Ed Leventhal at J.J. Teaparty in Boston, Massachusetts; first announced in a *Coin World* article in the August 8, 1984 issue (pg. 18). Seemingly found unattributed in a group purchased by J.J. Teaparty in 1984, and now back on the market for the first time since our sale of the *Texas Collection*. A prize of great importance, an issue for which no more than two collectors can currently claim "bragging rights."

Here's the emission sequence for this series, based on our examination of each of the following varieties from the Rowe collection: BG-107, BG-704, BG-703A, BG-703, BG-701, BG-702, BG-706, BG-705, and BG-707. This emission sequence confirms that this variety was, indeed, made in 1859, not 1856.

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 0.23 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.3 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-703.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-107, here heavily rusted and with clash marks (Die State III of BG-107).

**PCGS Population:** None have been certified yet by PCGS.

*From our sale of the Texas Collection, Lot 4007 (there called BG-107A); ex Heifetz:114; Lee:115.*

**Elusive BG-704 25c**

**145 1859 Octagonal 25¢. BG-704. Rarity-6+. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A lovely, frosted Uncirculated example, with choice, problem-free surfaces and nice eye appeal. Soft, greenish-gold color. Among the top dozen examples certified by PCGS.

Here's the emission sequence for this series, based on our examination of each of the following varieties from the Rowe collection: BG-107, BG-704, BG-703A, BG-703, BG-701, BG-702, BG-706, BG-705, and BG-707.

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 0.24 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.1 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-703.

**PCGS Population:** 4; 7 finer (the best are 2 in MS-64).

**Rare BG-705 25c****Plate Coin for the Second Edition of Breen-Gillio.**

**146 1859 Octagonal 25¢. BG-705. Rarity-6+. Liberty Head. EF-45.** Lightly cleaned, now with slightly subdued lustre but a pleasing, overall appearance. Heavy clashing and moderate rusting of the obverse die. Last use of the reverse die, now heavily ground down, the date barely legible. Rare in all grades, this being the finest Mr. Rowe could locate after decades of collecting. PCGS has graded only eight examples of this variety, the finest of which is a single MS-63.

Here's the emission sequence for this series, based on our examination of each of the following varieties from the Rowe collection: BG-107, BG-704, BG-703A, BG-703, BG-701, BG-702, BG-706, BG-705, and BG-707. Mr. Rowe's BG-706 shows no clashmarks (despite Leonard et al's assertion that the obverse of BG-706 is "always with clash marks." The obverse of Mr. Rowe's BG-705 is clearly from a later state of the die, thus placing the date of manufacture of this variety sometime in 1864!

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-701.



## Elusive BG-706 25c



- 147 1864 Octagonal 25c. BG-706. Rarity-5+. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Bright, prooflike lustre. A simply amazing example of the variety. Perfect dies, with no clashmarks on either side, in complete contradiction of the description of the variety by Leonard et al. This places the date of manufacture of this piece before the "1859"-dated BG-705!

Here's the emission sequence for this series, based on our examination of each of the following varieties from the Rowe collection: BG-107, BG-704, BG-703A, BG-703, BG-701, BG-702, BG-706, BG-705, and BG-707.

**Maker:** Frontier & Co.

**Weight:** 0.26 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.2 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-705.

**PCGS Population:** 11; 7 finer (the best is a single MS-65).



- 149 1866 Octagonal 25c. BG-708. Rarity-4+. Liberty Head. MS-65 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Brilliant, semi-prooflike lustre. One of the nicest examples known of the variety.

**Maker:** Frontier & Co.

**Weight:** 0.23 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.2 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**PCGS Population:** 8; 1 finer (a single MS-66).



- 150 1867 Octagonal 25c. BG-709. Rarity-4. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Lovely, yellow-gold colors. The obverse is frosty and satiny, in contrast to the semi-Prooflike reverse. Both sides show concentric lathe marks, features we've seen on several of the Frontier, Deviercy & Co. and Frontier & Co. pieces. According to Leonard et al, Jay Roe called this "the best made of the Liberty Head types."

**Maker:** Frontier & Co.

**Weight:** 0.18 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.3 mm.

**Edge:** Weakly reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-708.

**PCGS Population:** 9; 52 finer.

## Rarity-7+ BG-707 25c



- 148 1864 Octagonal 25c. BG-707. Rarity-7+. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A nicely struck, frosty Uncirculated examples of this extremely rare variety, combining the rusted obverse of BG-702 with the clashed reverse of BG-706. PCGS has graded only 3 examples of this variety, all in Mint State. This example is third finest of the six separate pieces listed by Leonard et al.

Here's the emission sequence for this series, based on our examination of each of the following varieties from the Rowe collection: BG-107, BG-704, BG-703A, BG-703, BG-701, BG-702, BG-706, BG-705, and BG-707.

**Maker:** Frontier & Co.

**Weight:** 0.18 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.3 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-706.

**PCGS Population:** 1; 2 finer (both in MS-64).

*Purchased sometime between 1985 and 1989.*



## Very Rare BG-710 25c

**151 1868 Octagonal 25c. BG-710. Rarity-6. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Shimmering obverse lustre; prooflike reverse brilliance with bold cartwheel lustre on the back side. A visual gem, with gorgeous, warm, olive and golden toning. Among the top dozen examples graded by PCGS and certainly one of the prettiest coins in the Rowe collection.

**Maker:** Frontier & Co.

**Weight:** 0.18 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.5 mm.

**Edge:** Weakly reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-708.

**PCGS Population:** 5; 6 finer (the finest are 3 in MS-66).

**152 1868 Octagonal 25c. BG-711. Rarity-4. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A brilliant, Prooflike beauty, with dazzling lustre on both sides. Somewhat softly impressed on the reverse, but that may be due, in large part, to the initial preparation of the die itself. A visually impressive example.

**Maker:** Frontier & Co.

**Weight:** 0.18 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.3 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 19; 20 finer.

**153 1869 Octagonal 25c. BG-712. Rarity-4+. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Delicious, yellow gold lustre. Fully frosted and satiny, with no traces of prooflike brilliance on either side.

**Maker:** Frontier & Co.

**Weight:** 0.16 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.2 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-711.

**PCGS Population:** 13; 19 finer.

**154 1870 Octagonal 25c. BG-713. Rarity-4. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Flashy, yellow-gold surfaces, with bold cartwheel lustre created by concentric die lines on both sides. Struck from worn or poorly prepared dies, with characteristic weakness on most of the lettering on the reverse, including the always-weak fraction.

**Maker:** Frontier & Co.

**Weight:** 0.18 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.2 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-711.

**PCGS Population:** 10; 42 finer.

**155 1871 Octagonal 25c. BG-714. Rarity-3. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Brilliant, yellow-gold lustre and prooflike surfaces. Pronounced concentric die lines on both sides. A lovely example of the variety.

**Maker:** Frontier & Co.

**Weight:** 0.21 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.5 mm.

**Edge:** Weakly reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-714.

**PCGS Population:** 19; 86 finer.



## Very Rare BG-715 25c



- 156 1871 Octagonal 25c. BG-715. Rarity-6-. Liberty Head. MS-65 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Bright, pale-yellow, with a heavily frosted obverse and a somewhat brighter reverse ("Prooflike" might be a stretch). Several cracks appear on the reverse, the apparent reason for the scarcity of this variety. Among the top nine examples certified by PCGS, exceeded only by two MS-66 pieces.

**Maker:** Frontier & Co.

**Weight:** 0.19 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.6 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-715.

**PCGS Population:** 7; 2 finer (both in MS-66).

## Rare and Desirable BG-716 25c



- 157 1871 Octagonal 25c. BG-716. Rarity-6+. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Dazzling cartwheel lustre and bright Prooflike surfaces. Leonard et al state "Usually brilliant frosty Uncirculated" but this piece is nowhere near frosty. Among the top nine examples certified by PCGS; in our opinion, it's one of the prettiest we've seen.

**Maker:** Frontier & Co.

**Weight:** 0.18 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.3 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-711.

**PCGS Population:** 3; 6 finer (the best are 4 in MS-66).



- 158 1871 Octagonal 25c. BG-717. Rarity-3. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate Die State II). Bright, semi-brilliant surfaces and gorgeous, yellow-gold color. From the extremely rare State II of the dies, with a lightly polished obverse and a completely rust-free reverse (compare with the next).

**Maker:** Frontier & Co.

**Weight:** 0.22 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.4 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-711.

**PCGS Population:** 58; 59 finer (the best are 2 in MS-66).



- 159 1871 Octagonal 25c. BG-717. Rarity-3. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate Die State III). Brilliant, light green lustre. Struck from a rusted reverse die, apparently the most common of the three die states for this variety.

**Maker:** Frontier & Co.

**Weight:** 0.21 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.4 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-711.



**Unique BG-717A 25c**  
**Discovered Since the Publication of Breen-Gillio's**  
**First Edition**



**160 1871 Octagonal 25¢. BG-717A. Unique. Liberty Head. MS-66 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio and the only example known. A frosty gem, with bright, yellow-gold surfaces and lots of flash and brilliance. Concentric polishing marks on the reverse create a dazzling cartwheel effect. The reverse also shows some light clashmarks. Wonderful eye appeal – as nice as one can expect to find on any small denomination California gold piece. The ultimate combination of rarity and quality in a tiny California gold coin.

This variety was discovered by Rick Montgomery at PCGS sometime around 1990 or 1991 and assigned BG-716A by them. The new editors of Breen-Gillio (Robert Leonard et al) have assigned BG-717A because this variety was struck between State I and State II of BG-717. PCGS reports a BG-716A at the MS-65 level, but we suspect that it may actually be this piece before it was upgraded. If not, a second example awaits introduction to the numismatic community. In the meantime, remember that this is the first public appearance of this variety – an even that may not be repeated for decades to come.

**Maker:** Frontier & Co.

**Weight:** 0.21 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.5 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-711.

No examples of this variety have been graded by PCGS.

*Purchased from Robert B. Lecce on August 19, 1991. Earlier from Stuart Levine.*

**Rare BG-718 Quarter Dollar**



**161 1871 Octagonal 25¢. BG-718. Rarity-6+. Liberty Head. MS-65 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Dazzling Prooflike lustre, caused by concentric die polishing lines on both sides. One of the finest examples known of the variety, exceeded by only two examples at PCGS. A wonderful opportunity for the advanced collector to finally obtain an example (and a nice one) of this elusive variety.

**Maker:** Frontier & Co.

**Weight:** 0.19 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.2 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-717A.

**PCGS Population:** 2; 2 finer (both MS-66).

## One of Two Known BG-718A Quarter Dollars

Discovered Circa 1990



**162 1871 Octagonal 25¢. BG-718A. Rarity-8+. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio and the finest of two known specimens of this variety. A brilliant example with bright, reflective surfaces and a gorgeous, sunny-yellow color. The reverse features a prominent die crack on the left side, indicating a quick destruction of the die before very many of these were struck. Variety discovered by Richard Montgomery at PCGS circa 1990. PCGS reports a second example at the MS-63 level, but we're not sure if it is a true second example or the original grade for this coin. Thus, we'll cite two examples just to err on the side of caution.

**Maker:** Frontier & Co.

**Weight:** 0.33 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.3 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-718.

**PCGS Population:** 1; none finer. PCGS has graded only 2 examples of this variety.

*Purchased from Robert B. Lecce on August 19, 1991.*

## Exceptionally Rare BG-719 25c



**163 1871 Octagonal 25¢. BG-719. Rarity-7. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State II). Frosty, light green lustre, with brighter, semi-prooflike surfaces on the reverse. PCGS has graded only five examples of this variety and this is generally considered to be the finest of the nine examples (minus duplication) listed by Leonard et al. Die State II has an uncracked obverse and a clashed reverse.

**Maker:** Frontier & Co.

**Weight:** 0.20 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.4 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-718.

**PCGS Population:** 3; none finer.

*Purchased sometime between 1985 and 1988 from an unknown source.*



### Rare and Desirable BG-720 25c Finest Known of the Variety



#### 164 1871 Octagonal 25c. BG-720. Rarity-7. Liberty Head. MS-65 (PCGS).

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Dazzling Prooflike lustre, with concentric die polishing lines on both sides. Liberty's head is cracked and shattered, accounting for the short die life and extreme rarity of this variety. PCGS has graded only 6 examples of this variety, this being the finest and only MS-65. A phenomenal piece that is sure to elicit intense competition.

**Maker:** Frontier & Co.

**Weight:** 0.19 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.5 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-719.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-717.

**PCGS Population:** 1; none finer.

*Purchased from New England Rare Coins on May 22, 1978.*

### Immensely Rare BG-721 Quarter Dollar Fabulous Double-Dated Transitional Piece



#### 165 1872 Octagonal 25c. BG-721. Rarity-7+. Liberty Head. MS-65

(PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A brilliant, Prooflike Gem that approaches perfection and ranks with one other as "Finest Known" of this extremely rare variety. One of the most curious and desirable small denomination California gold pieces, this variety combines an 1872/1 obverse with the rusted 1871-dated reverse of BG-717. Although known as early as 1953, this variety was not published until 1980 by the Doerings. The fireworks will fly as this coin crosses the auction block!

**Maker:** Frontier & Bellemere.

**Weight:** 0.20 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.5 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 2; none finer. PCGS has graded only 4 examples of this variety.

*Purchased from Harmer Rooke's "Saint John's" sale, October 20, 1986, Lot 425. Earlier from James Olive on July 29, 1953.*



#### 166 1872 Octagonal 25c. BG-722. Rarity-4-. Washington Head. MS-64

(PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. The extremely popular Washington head obverse, made (we guess) to avoid some of the legal issues concerning the manufacture of small denomination gold coins. Clearly, such a coin, particularly in an octagonal format, could never have been confused with the Federally issued gold dollars. Nevertheless, considerable pressure was being placed on the manufacturers of these tiny pieces to discontinue their operations. However, at some point, the pressure eased (or the manufacturers felt safe in the legality of their position) and the Washington heads were discarded in favor of the old Liberty heads. This example features frosty lustre and a delightful, soft-green color.

**Maker:** Frontier & Bellemere.

**Weight:** 0.21 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.3 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 31; 50 finer.

### Elusive Washington Head Quarter Dollar BG-723, Rarity 6-



#### 167 1872 Octagonal 25c. BG-723. Rarity-6-. Washington Head. AU-58

(PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Still lustrous, toned to a deep, egg-yolk yellow, with a touch of bluish color on the high points. Much rarer than BG-723 and comparable in rarity to BG-724. An important, don't miss opportunity for the advanced collector.

**Maker:** Frontier & Bellemere.

**Weight:** 0.21 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.5 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-722.

**PCGS Population:** 8; 14 finer.



## Rarest of the Washington Head Quarter Dollars

BG-724, Rarity-6+



- 168 1872 Octagonal 25¢. BG-724. Rarity-6+. Washington Head. MS-62 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Satiny, yellow-gold lustre. Variety discovered by Gene Hauman around 1978-1979. The obverse of this variety was later used to create a gold charm (not covered in the Breen-Gillio reference). Very rare and extremely popular.

**Maker:** Frontier & Bellemere.

**Weight:** 0.23 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.5 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:**

**Reverse:** Same as BG-723.

**PCGS Population:** 1; 5 finer (the best are 3 in MS-64). PCGS has graded only 8 examples of this variety.



- 169 1872 Octagonal 25¢. BG-725. Rarity-5+. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Struck in a bright, green-colored gold, now toned in part with a coppery-orange iridescence. Semi-Prooflike brilliance. Like the preceding lot, this obverse was later joined with a CHARM reverse to create "value-less" tokens for collectors and to avoid Federal restrictions against issuing small denomination gold coins.

**Maker:** Frontier & Bellemere.

**Weight:** 0.19 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.5 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 9; 3 finer (all MS-65).



- 170 1872 Octagonal 25¢. BG-726. Rarity-5+. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Although dated 1872, we know from die evidence that this was actually struck in 1873. A bright, yellow-gold example with lots of concentric die polishing lines on both sides. Called "Aged Head" in the 1935 sale of the Comstock collection, although there is really no noticeable difference between this and the other Frontier Liberty heads. Tied with three others for the finest certified by PCGS.

**Maker:** Frontier & Bellemere.

**Weight:** 0.20 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.6 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 4; none finer.



- 171 1873 Octagonal 25¢. BG-727. Rarity-4+. Liberty Head. MS-65 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Soft, green-gold, semi-satiny, semi-Prooflike surfaces. A light, horizontal crack runs across the bottom of the reverse, indicating a late (possibly terminal) state of the dies. This variety was first published in 1884 in *The Coin Collector's Journal*.

**Maker:** Frontier & Bellemere.

**Weight:** 0.21 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.3 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-722 (no berries).

**PCGS Population:** 9; 5 finer (the best is a single MS-67).





**172 1873 Octagonal 25c. BG-728. Rarity-3. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate Die State I). Bright, orange-gold surfaces. Dazzling, Prooflike lustre, created by the combination of an early state of the dies and loads of concentric, polishing lines. Impressive eye appeal. This variety was first published in 1884 in *The Coin Collector's Journal*.

**Maker:** Frontier & Bellemere.

**Weight:** 0.21 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.4 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-727.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-726 (7 berries).

**PCGS Population:** 43; 51 finer.

**Exceedingly Rare BG-729 25c**



**173 1860 Octagonal 25c. BG-729. Rarity-7+. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (used, incorrectly, to illustrate Die State I). Prooflike. A bright, nearly choice, example. From the same dies as BG-111, featuring a reverse die first used by Nouizillet in 1856, here altered to 1860 (only a trace of the 5 shows) and with the shape of the bow changed. The obverse was also altered by reengraving the nose and polishing off clashmarks. Some students of this series believe that Gray may have restruck BG-111 after succeeding Nouizillet based on the fact that some BG-111's show the reengraved nose characteristic of this later variety. In any event, this is a very rare variety that is sure to excite the specialist.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Weight:** 0.23 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.7 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 2; none finer. PCGS has graded only 3 examples of this variety.

*Purchased from Harmer, Rooke on February 1, 1978.*

**Hard-to-Find BG-730 1860 25c**



**174 1860-G Octagonal 25c. BG-730. Rarity-6+. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Crisp yellow-gold color and bright, Prooflike surfaces. This is quite possibly the first "purely Gray" octagonal quarter dollar, as his earliest emissions were made from dies he purchased from Nouizillet. The reverse die is completely shattered and must have lasted through only a few strikings, accounting for the rarity of this variety. This piece shows none of the "ghosting" mentioned and explained by Leonard et al. PCGS has graded only eight examples of this variety, this being the finest they've certified.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Weight:** 0.28 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.8 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Petite head of Liberty centered above a G "mintmark" and surrounded by 15 stars.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-729.

**PCGS Population:** 1; none finer.



**175 1860-G Octagonal 25c. BG-731. Rarity-5-. Liberty Head. MS-61 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Weight:** 0.23 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.8 mm.

**Edge:** Some facets weakly reeded, others plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-730.

**PCGS Population:** 2; 17 finer.



**Very Rare 1860 BG-732 25c**

**176 1860-G Octagonal 25¢. BG-732. Rarity-6+. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State II).

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Weight:** 0.31 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.7 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-731.

**PCGS Population:** 3; 5 finer (the best are 2 in MS-62).

**Extremely Rare BG-733 25c**

**One of Five Known**

**The Boyd - Doering - Buss Example**



**177 1863-G Octagonal 25¢. BG-733. Rarity-7+. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).** The plate coin for Doering and the first and second editions of Breen-Gillio. Semi-Prooflike, with coppery toning on both sides. Of the five examples listed in Breen-Gillio, one is permanently impounded in the Smithsonian (donated by F.C.C. Boyd). PCGS has graded only five examples of this variety, this one being tied with two others for top honors at that service (or perhaps some duplication exists at the top level, which only helps to make this coin rarer and more valuable).

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Weight:** 0.31 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.8 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-732.

**PCGS Population:** 3; none finer.

*From Superior's "Club Cal Neva" sale, September 22, 1987, Lot 4507. Earlier from Superior's "Jerry Buss" sale, January 30, 1985, Lot 21378 - Doering - F.C.C. Boyd, Numisma 5011.*

**Desirable BG-734 Quarter Dollar**

**The Finest Example Certified by PCGS**



**178 1863-G Octagonal 25¢. BG-734. Rarity-6. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State I).

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

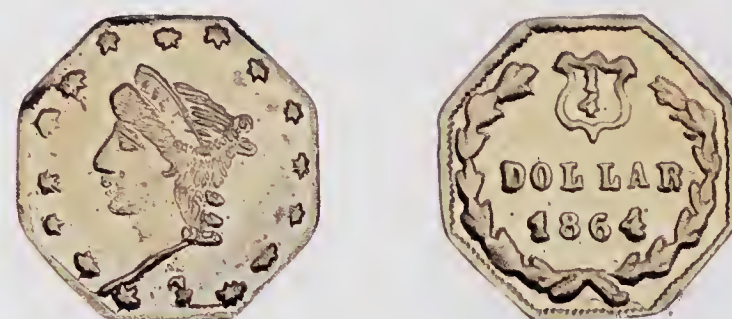
**Weight:** 0.33 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.7 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-733.

**PCGS Population:** 1; none finer.



**179 1864-G Octagonal 25¢. BG-735. Rarity-4. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State II). One of the finest examples known of the variety.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Weight:** 0.28 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.8 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-734.

**PCGS Population:** 8; 2 finer (both MS-64).

**Elusive 1865/4 Overdate 25c**

**180 1865/4-G Octagonal 25¢. BG-736. Rarity-6-. Liberty Head. AU-55 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Weight:** 0.31 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.6 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-734.

**PCGS Population:** 2; 15 finer.





**181 1866-G Octagonal 25¢. BG-737. Rarity-5. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. One of the finest examples graded by PCGS.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Weight:** 0.32 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.7 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 7; 2 finer (both MS-64).

### Exceedingly Rare 1866-G BG-738 25¢ Less Than 10 Examples Known



**182 1866-G Octagonal 25¢. BG-738. Rarity-7. Liberty Head. MS-60 (PCGS).** The plate coin for Doering and the second edition of Breen-Gillio (used to illustrate State II at the dies). Attractive, red toning over bright, Prooflike surfaces. Neat cud at the top of the reverse, connecting the shield with the rim. Variety discovered by Walter Breen in the T. James Clarke collection. Leonard et al list 9 examples in Breen-Gillio, this being fifth finest according to them. PCGS has graded only nine examples of this variety.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Weight:** 0.32 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.9 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely Reeded.

**Obverse:** Earlier style head, similar to that used in 1860. Same as BG-739.

**Reverse:** Typical "Fraction in Shield" reverse used by Gray from 1863-1870; wreath with 11 berries on each branch. This particular reverse appeared only in this die combination.

**PCGS Population:** 1; 4 finer (the best is a single MS-64).

*Ex Superior's sale of the "Lawson" collection, June 4, 1985, Lot 1938. Earlier from Doering.*

### Exceedingly Rare BG-739

Plate Coin for Doering and the first and Second Editions of Breen-Gillio



**183 1866-G Octagonal 25¢. BG-739. Rarity-7+. Liberty Head. Net AU-50;** Called "Uncirculated" by Leonard et al, but down-graded because of some light scratches at the R of DOLLAR, where a misguided attempt was made to remove a small spot. Was unique in the first edition of Breen-Gillio, but now the population has "swelled" to four examples (per the authors of the second edition). PCGS has graded only 3 examples of this variety.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Weight:** 0.28 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.8 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely Reeded.

**Obverse:** Earlier style head, similar to that used in 1860. Same as BG-738.

**Reverse:** Typical "Fraction in Shield" reverse used by Gray from 1863-1870; wreath with 12 berries on each branch. This particular reverse has a distinctive narrow shield that appeared only in this die combination.

*Purchased from Doering on July 12, 1984.*

### Very Rare BG-740 Quarter Dollar



**184 1866-G Octagonal 25¢. BG-740. Rarity-6-. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Weight:** 0.28 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.9 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely Reeded.

**Obverse:** Liberty Head with a bulging eye; G "mintmark" close to truncation. Same as BG-741.

**Reverse:** Typical "Fraction in Shield" reverse used by Gray from 1863-1870; 9 berries in each branch. This particular reverse appeared only in this die combination.

**PCGS Population:** 5; 7 finer (the best are 2 in MS-64).





185 1867-G Octagonal 25c. BG-741. Rarity-5. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Weight:** 0.27 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.8 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Liberty Head with a bulging eye; G "mintmark" close to truncation. Same as BG-740.

**Reverse:** The only 1867 1/4 Dollar reverse known to have been produced by Gray. The wreath bow and ribbons are represented by an unusual grouping of apostrophe-like semi-circles. Same as on BG-742 and 743; the earliest usage appears to have been on BG-741.

**PCGS Population:** 5; 21 finer.

### Delightful BG-742 1867 25c Rarity



186 1867-G Octagonal 25c. BG-742. Rarity-7-. Liberty Head. EF-45. The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Lightly cleaned, now a bright, yellow-gold color. Extremely rare: only 13 examples are listed by Leonard et al with the caveat "Probably slight duplication." PCGS has graded only seven examples of this variety.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Weakly Reeded.

**Obverse:** Liberty Head; G "mintmark" away from the bust; some of the stars (7-9) are much finer than usual. This die broke early and swelled at Liberty's forehead, forelock, and coronet tip, causing weakness in the opposite side of the coin. This was the only appearance of this obverse; the rarity of the variety indicates a short life.

**Reverse:** The only 1867 1/4 Dollar reverse known to have been produced by Gray. The wreath bow and ribbons are represented by an unusual grouping of apostrophe-like semi-circles. Same as on BG-741 and 743; here in an intermediate state with a small crack connecting the rim and the upper right corner of the shield.

*Purchased from Patashnick on November 25, 1995.*

### Rarity-8 1867-G BG-743 25c

One of Three Known



187 1867-G Octagonal 25c. BG-743. Rarity-8. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS). The plate coin for Doering and the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Nice full lustre despite some trivial friction. Untoned, yellow-green surfaces. Satiny and semi-Prooflike on the obverse; fully Prooflike on the reverse. Third finest of three known. Variety discovered by Kenneth Lee sometime before his 1970 publication of *California Gold Dollars, Half Dollars, Quarter Dollars*. This variety was not represented in the Texas collection, and this is only the fourth chance that collectors have had to buy this variety at auction.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Weight:** 0.28 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.9 mm.

**Edge:** Weakly Reeded.

**Obverse:** Liberty Head; G "mintmark" close to bust; stars sharp; 9th star close to hair bun; last star low relative to the first. Same as BG-744.

**Reverse:** The only 1867 1/4 Dollar reverse known to have been produced by Gray. The wreath bow and ribbons are represented by an unusual grouping of apostrophe-like semi-circles. Same as on BG-741 and 742; this being the latest usage of the die.

**PCGS Population:** 1; 2 finer (the best is a single MS-64).

*Ex Doering on July 12, 1984.*

### Extremely Rare BG-744

Plate Coin for the Second Edition of Breen-Gillio



188 1868-G Octagonal 25c. BG-744. Rarity-7. Liberty Head. MS-60 (PCGS). PCGS has graded only three examples of this variety. Beautiful, prooflike surfaces, full brilliance, bright yellow-gold color, great eye appeal, and enticing rarity. Variety discovered by Kenneth Lee sometime before the publication of his 1970 opus. Extremely rare; known by no more than eight examples, this being second finest. An important opportunity for the serious collector.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Weight:** 0.27 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.9 mm.

**Edge:** Weakly Reeded.

**Obverse:** Liberty Head; G "mintmark" close to bust; stars sharp; 9th star close to hair bun; last star low relative to the first. Same as BG-743.

**Reverse:** One of only two 1868 1/4 Dollar reverses known to have been produced by Gray. The wreath bow is shaped like a sausage. Same as on BG-745 and 747; this appears to be the earliest state of the die, before being polished and losing some of the fine details.

**PCGS Population:** 2; only 1 finer (a single MS-62).

*Purchased from David Bland on October 10, 1978.*



## Desirable 1868-G BG-745 25c



**189 1868-G Octagonal 25c. BG-745. Rarity-6-. Liberty Head. MS-61 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Variety discovered by David or Susan Doering sometime before the publication of their 1980 "California Fractional Gold."

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Weight:** 0.25 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.7 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely Reeded.

**Obverse:** Liberty Head; G "mintmark" away from bust; stars crude and/or repunched; 9th star close to hair bun; last star almost on the same level as the first. Same as BG-746.

**Reverse:** One of only two 1868 1/4 Dollar reverses known to have been produced by Gray. The wreath bow is shaped like a sausage. Same as on BG-744 and 747; this appears to be an intermediate state, after the die was polished and lost some of the fine details, most notably on the top of the shield.

**PCGS Population:** 3; 12 finer.



**190 1868-G Octagonal 25c. BG-746. Rarity-4+. Liberty Head. MS-61 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Weight:** .025 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.6 mm.

**Edge:** Weakly Reeded.

**Obverse:** Liberty Head; G "mintmark" away from bust; stars crude and/or repunched; 9th star close to hair bun; last star almost on the same level as the first. Same as BG-745.

**Reverse:** The second 1868 1/4 Dollar reverse known to have been produced by Gray. The wreath bow is also shaped like a sausage, but there are no berries on the wreath branches and both branches end in a triple leaf. This reverse appeared only on BG-746.

**PCGS Population:** 6; 30 finer.



**191 1868-G Octagonal 25c. BG-747. Rarity-5+. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Diameter:** 9.7 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely Reeded.

**Obverse:** Liberty Head; G "mintmark" away from bust; first star way high; second star way low (apparently, the engraver wasn't paying much attention to what he was doing – Leonard et al speculate that the layout might have been for a 15 star obverse, with the first two stars omitted, but Gray went to the 13 star format in 1866 and never left it). This die was later used to create all of Gray's 1869 1/4 Dollar pieces (BG-748-751) plus one of his 1870's (BG-752).

**Reverse:** One of only two 1868 1/4 Dollar reverses known to have been produced by Gray. The wreath bow is shaped like a sausage. Same as on BG-744 and 745; this being the latest state of the dies, with heavy repolishing and several cracks and rust marks in the fields.

**PCGS Population:** 9; 3 finer (all MS-63).



**192 1869-G Octagonal 25c. BG-748. Rarity-5. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. One of the finest examples known of the variety.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Crudely Reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-747 and 749-752.

**Reverse:** Double bow (the only 1869 reverse with this feature). This reverse appears only on this die combination.

**PCGS Population:** 8; only 2 finer (both MS-64).



**193 1869-G Octagonal 25c. BG-749. Rarity-5+. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Tied with one other coin for top honors at PCGS.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Crudely Reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-747-748 and 750-752.

**Reverse:** Bottom point of shield touches the second L of DOLLAR (diagnostic for this die). This reverse appears only on this die pairing.

**PCGS Population:** 2; none finer!





194 1869-G Octagonal 25¢. BG-750. Rarity-5. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Tied with four others for top honors at PCGS.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Crudely Reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-747-749 and 751-752.

**Reverse:** Berry below and just to the right of the 9 (on BG-748 and BG-749, the berry is below but far to the right of the 9). This reverse die appears only on this die combination.

**PCGS Population:** 5; none finer!



195 1869-G Octagonal 25¢. BG-751. Rarity-4+. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Crudely Reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-747-750 and 752.

**Reverse:** Berry on the same level as, and close to, the 9. This reverse die appears only on this die combination.

**PCGS Population:** 11; 5 finer (the best are 3 in MS-65).



196 1870-G Octagonal 25¢. BG-752. Rarity-5-. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Crudely Reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-747-751.

**Reverse:** Shield around the fraction (diagnostic for this 1870 variety).

**PCGS Population:** 7; 6 finer (all MS-63).

## Desirable 1870-G Quarter Dollar Popular Horizontal G Variety



197 1870-G Octagonal 25¢. BG-753. Rarity-6+. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. One of the finest examples graded by PCGS.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Crudely Reeded.

**Obverse:** Horizontal G "mintmark" (diagnostic for this variety and the only use of this obverse).

**Reverse:** No shield around fraction; berry close to 0 in date (combined, these characteristics are diagnostic of this variety). No other use of this die.

**PCGS Population:** 4; only 1 finer (a single MS-63).

## Extremely Rare 1870-G 25c BG-754, One of Less Than a Dozen Known



198 1870-G Octagonal 25¢. BG-754. Rarity-7. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Light coppery toning over soft green-gold surfaces. Probably prooflike at one time, with traces of flashy brilliance in many of the protected areas. PCGS has graded only 9 examples of this variety. Variety discovered by David or Susan Doering sometime before the publication of their 1980 *California Fractional Gold*.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Crudely Reeded.

**Obverse:** 13 five-pointed stars (diagnostic for this variety and the only use of this obverse).

**Reverse:** No shield around fraction; double bow. Same as BG-755.

**PCGS Population:** 3; 5 finer (the best is a single MS-63).





- 199 1870-G Octagonal 25c. BG-755. Rarity-4+. Liberty Head. Net EF-40; The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Lightly hairlined from an old cleaning, now retone to a rich, deep, coppery-red color.  
**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.  
**Edge:** Crudely Reeded.  
**Obverse:** Crude, six-pointed stars; G "mintmark" crowded up against truncation line (together, diagnostic for this variety and the only use of this obverse).  
**Reverse:** No shield around fraction; double bow. Same as BG-754.

### Extremely Rare 1870-G BG-756 25c One of the Finest Examples Known



- 200 1870-G Octagonal 25c. BG-756. Rarity-7-. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Lovely, semi-Prooflike, orange-yellow surfaces with flecks of toning scattered about on the reverse. Softly struck at the date and parts of the wreath, but still a real beauty. PCGS has graded only 7 examples of this variety and the example offered here is tied with three others for top honors at PCGS.  
**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.  
**Edge:** Crudely Reeded.  
 Beginning with BG-756, Gray switched to dated obverses and undated reverses.  
**Obverse:** 13 five-pointed stars (diagnostic for this variety and the only use of this obverse).  
**Reverse:** No shield around fraction; double bow. Same as BG-755.  
**PCGS Population:** 4; none finer!

### Very Rare BG-757 Quarter Dollar



- 201 1870-G Octagonal 25c. BG-757. Rarity-6. Liberty Head. MS-61 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.  
**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.  
**Edge:** Crudely Reeded.  
**PCGS Population:** 4; 6 finer (the best is a single MS-65).

### Exceedingly Rare BG-758 25c Finest of Four Known



- 202 1870-G Octagonal 25c. BG-758. Rarity-8. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Bright yellow, with a spot of copper toning by the D of DOLLAR on the reverse. This is the finest of the four examples graded thus far by PCGS, by a full five points! Breen-Gillio enumerate three examples, but the PCGS Population Report shows one EF-45, one AU-55, one AU-58, and this remarkable MS-63. Variety discovered by David or Susan Doering sometime before the publication of their 1980 *California Fractional Gold*.  
**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.  
**Edge:** Crudely Reeded.  
**Obverse:** Same as BG-757.  
**PCGS Population:** 1; none finer!  
 Purchased from Doering on July 12, 1984.



- 203 1870-G Octagonal 25c. BG-759. Rarity-4. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.  
**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.  
**Edge:** Crudely Reeded.  
**Obverse:** Same as BG-757.  
**PCGS Population:** 8; 3 finer (all MS-65).



- 204 1870-G Octagonal 25c. BG-759. Rarity-4. Liberty Head. Net VF-30; Nicely detailed, but the surfaces have a satiny, matte texture as if from an acid bath.  
**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.  
**Edge:** Crudely Reeded.  
**Obverse:** Same as BG-757.



**Previously Unique BG-760 25c**  
Now Represented by Six or Seven Examples



**205 1870-G Octagonal 25c. BG-760. Rarity-7+. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the first and second editions of Breen-Gillio. PCGS has graded only six examples of this variety, this one being tied with one other for second-place honors at that service. Variety discovered by David Doering sometime after the publication of his 1980 "California Fractional Gold" and his 1982 second edition.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Crudely Reeded.

**PCGS Population:** 2; 1 finer (a single MS-65).

*Possibly from our "Johnson" sale, January 28, 1989, Lot 4141.*



**206 1870-G Octagonal 25c. BG-761. Rarity-4. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. This example is tied with three others for top honors at PCGS.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 4; none finer.



**207 1870-G Octagonal 25c. BG-762. Rarity-4-. Liberty Head. MS-65 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. This is the finest example of the variety certified by PCGS.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Weakly Reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-761.

**PCGS Population:** 1; none finer.



**208 1870-G Octagonal 25c. BG-763. Rarity-4-. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. This is one of the finest examples of the variety graded by PCGS, tied with three others for top honors at that service.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-761.

**PCGS Population:** 4; none finer.

**Desirable 1871-G Quarter Dollar**  
**BG-764, Rarity-6-**



**209 1871-G Octagonal 25c. BG-764. Rarity-6-. Liberty Head. EF-45.** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Prooflike, bright yellow surfaces. Somewhat weakly struck on the obverse rims, but nicely detailed centrally (on the obverse). The reverse shattered and sank, accounting for the great rarity of this variety.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Crudely Reeded.



**210 1871-G Octagonal 25c. BG-765. Rarity-3. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-764.

**PCGS Population:** 26; 3 finer.



### Extremely Rare BG-766 25c Finest Known



211 1871-G Octagonal 25c. BG-766. Rarity-7+. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS). The plate coin for Doering and the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Brilliant, Prooflike lustre. Untoned except for a spot of color on the D of DOLLAR. This is the finest example (by a single point) graded by PCGS. In total, PCGS has graded only three examples of this variety: one in MS-62, one in MS-63, and this MS-64. This is consistent with the four examples enumerated by Leonard at al in the new (2003) edition of *California Fractional Pioneer Gold*.

Maker: Robert B. Gray & Co.

Edge: Plain.

Obverse: Same as BG-764.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

Purchased from Doering on July 12, 1984.



212 1871-G Octagonal 25c. BG-767. Rarity-3. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS). One of the finest examples known of this variety, tied with a crowd of ten others for top honors at PCGS.

Maker: Robert B. Gray & Co.

Edge: Plain.

Obverse: Same as BG-764.

PCGS Population: 11; none finer.



213 1871-G Octagonal 25c. BG-768. Rarity-4. Liberty Head. MS-61 (PCGS).

Maker: California Jewelry Co.

Edge: Plain.

PCGS Population: 10; 33 finer.



214 1871-G Octagonal 25c. BG-769. Rarity-5. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS).

Maker: California Jewelry Co.

Edge: Plain.

Obverse: Same as BG-768.

Reverse: Same as BG-763.

PCGS Population: 3; 26 finer.



215 1871-L Octagonal 25c. BG-770. Rarity-4+. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).

Maker: California Jewelry Co.

Edge: Plain.

Reverse: Same as BG-768.

PCGS Population: 10; 5 finer.

### Very Rare 1871-L BG-771 Quarter Dollar



216 1871-L Octagonal 25c. BG-771. Rarity-6-. Liberty Head. MS-61 (PCGS). Variety discovered by David or Susan Doering sometime before the publication of their 1980 *California Fractional Gold*.

Maker: California Jewelry Co.

Edge: Plain.

Obverse: Same as BG-770.

Reverse: Same as BG-769.

PCGS Population: 1; 11 finer.



**Very Rare BG-772 25c**

217 1873 Octagonal 25c. BG-772. Rarity-6+. Liberty Head. EF-45. The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Bright, yellow-gold lustre and choice, flashy surfaces, the grade impacted by some faint hair-lines and one noticeable scratch on the reverse. Neat, double-hubbed head of Liberty, showing a doubled chin and doubled eye line, indicative of an early state of the dies. Minor "ghosting" on both sides.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Edge:** Plain.

**A Second BG-772**

218 1873 Octagonal 25c. BG-772. Rarity-6+. Liberty Head. MS-61 (PCGS). One of the finest examples graded by PCGS.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 2; 7 finer.

**Extremely Rare BG-773 25c**  
**Kenneth Lee's Discovery Coin**

219 1874 Octagonal 25c. BG-773. Rarity-7+. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Struck on a green colored gold planchet, here with brilliant Prooflike surfaces. PCGS has graded only four examples of this variety, this being one of the top three. Discovered by Kenneth Lee prior to the 1970 publication of his *California Gold Dollars, Half Dollars, Quarter Dollars*.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-772.

**PCGS Population:** 1; 2 finer (the best is a single MS-64).

*Ex Superior's sale of the Lee collection, September 25, 1988, Lot 181.*

**Extremely Rare 1874 BG-774 25c**  
**Believed to be Finest of Only Five or Six Known**

220 1874 Octagonal 25c. BG-774. Rarity-7+. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A beautiful blending of green, yellow, and orange colors. Well struck, but numerous "ghosts" affect some of the design elements, most noticeably in the center of the reverse. Tied with one other coin as the finest of the variety graded by PCGS. Variety discovered by David or Susan Doering sometime before the publication of their 1980 *California Fractional Gold*. Prooflike.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-772.

**PCGS Population:** 2; none finer!

*Purchased from David Doering on October 30, 1978.*

**Elusive BG-775 Octagonal Quarter Dollar**

221 1874 Octagonal 25c. BG-775. Rarity-6+. Liberty Head. MS-61 (PCGS). PCGS has graded only eight examples of this variety, this being one of the finest.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 2; 2 finer (both MS-62).



222 1874/7874 Octagonal 25c. BG-776. Rarity-5-. Liberty Head. MS-61 (PCGS).

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-775.

**PCGS Population:** 3; 31 finer.



### Unusual 1875/3 Overdate Quarter Dollar BG-777, Rarity-7-



**223 1875/3 Octagonal 25¢. BG-777. Rarity-7-. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Bright prooflike surfaces. Our opinion, after carefully examining this coin, is that it is indeed an 1875/3 (the 3 is clearly beneath the 5, plus, why would anyone try to turn an 1875 coin into one from 1873)! Considered second finest by Leonard et al. PCGS has graded only six examples of this variety; this one is tied with three others for top honors at that service. Variety discovered by Kenneth W. Lee sometime between the publication of his first and second editions (1970-1979).

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-772.

**PCGS Population:** 4; none finer.

*Believed to be from our sale of the "Coben" collection, January 26, 1985, Lot 2223.*

### Popular 1876 "Baby Head" 25c Plate Coin in Doering and the First and Second Editions of Breen-Gillio



**224 1876 Octagonal 25¢. BG-778. Rarity-7-. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).** One of the finest examples known of the variety. Dazzling, yellow-gold brilliance. Obverse struck from heavily clashed dies; the reverse shows some light clashing as well as some rusting and "ghosting." PCGS has graded only nine examples of this variety and this one is tied with one other as Finest Known at PCGS. Variety discovered by Kenneth Lee sometime before the publication of his 1970 opus, where this variety was first introduced.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 2; none finer.

*Believed to be from Pacific Coast Auction Galleries' "Scottsdale" sale, March 20, 1986, Lot 371.*

### Extremely Rare BG-779 "Baby Head" Obverse Plate Coin For The Second Edition of Breen-Gillio



**225 1876 Octagonal 50¢. BG-779. Rarity-7. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).** One of the finest examples of the variety, tied with two others for top honors at PCGS (where they have certified nine examples of this variety). Prooflike. Variety discovered by Kenneth Lee sometime before the publication of his 1970 opus, where this variety was first introduced.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-778.

**PCGS Population:** 4; 3 finer.

*Purchased from David Bland on October 10, 1978.*



**226 1876 Octagonal 25¢. BG-780. Rarity-4. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).** One of the finest examples known of the variety.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-778.

**PCGS Population:** 12; none finer.

### Exceedingly Rare BG-781 25c Finest of the Four Known Examples



**227 1875 Octagonal 25¢. BG-781. Rarity-8. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).** The plate coin for Doering and the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Delicate, green-gold surfaces with a spot or two of coppery toning in some of the "ghosts" on the reverse! This is the finest example known of the variety and the only MS-64 graded by PCGS. Variety discovered by David Doering sometime between 1980 and 1982. An extremely important variety and a nice examples of the Small Indian Head type.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-775-76.

**PCGS Population:** 1; none finer!

*From Kurt Krueger's ANA sale, July 30, 1984, Lot 2773*





- 228 1875 Octagonal 25c. BG-782. Rarity-5+. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS). One of the finest examples known of this variety. Tied with seven others for top honors at PCGS.

Maker: Herman J. Brand.

Edge: Plain.

PCGS Population: 8; none finer.



- 229 1875 Octagonal 25c. BG-783. Rarity-5. Indian Head. MS-65 (PCGS).

This coin is the single finest example of the variety certified by PCGS.

Maker: Herman J. Brand.

Edge: Plain.

Obverse: Same as BG-782.

Reverse: Same as BG-779.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer!



- 230 1875 Octagonal 25c. BG-784. Rarity-5+. Indian Head. MS-65 (PCGS). Tied with two others for top honors at PCGS.

Maker: Herman J. Brand.

Edge: Plain.

Obverse: Same as BG-782.

PCGS Population: 3; none finer.



- 231 1876 Octagonal 25c. BG-785. Rarity-5+. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS). One of the top ten certified examples of this variety.

Maker: Herman J. Brand.

Edge: Plain.

Reverse: Same as BG-780.

PCGS Population: 6; 4 finer.



- 232 1876 Octagonal 25c. BG-786. Rarity-6-. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS). One of the finest certified examples of this variety.

Maker: Herman J. Brand.

Edge: Plain.

Obverse: Same as BG-785.

Reverse: Same as BG-779.

PCGS Population: 4; 1 finer.

### Extra Rare 1876 BG-787 Tied for Finest of Three or Four Known



- 233 1876 Octagonal 25c. BG-787. Rarity-8. Indian Head. MS-65 (PCGS).

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Attractive cameo obverse, with slight hazing over the Indian's bust; the reverse is fully prooflike. PCGS has graded only two examples of this variety, both of which sit at the MS-65 level (according to Leonard et al, these are two different coins, not a resubmission of the same coin. Extremely rare and a significant opportunity for the advanced collector.

Maker: Herman J. Brand.

Edge: Plain.

Reverse: Same as BG-780.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer!

*Purchased from Coin Castle (Birmingham, Alabama) on April 27, 1981.*

### Elusive 1881 BG-788 25c



- 234 1881 Octagonal 25c. BG-788. Rarity-7. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Prooflike, yellow-gold surfaces. This variety combines a token obverse with an old reverse from 1876! One of the top three examples graded by PCGS. Variety discovered by Robert H. Burnie sometime between 1952 and 1955.

Maker: Herman J. Brand.

Edge: Plain.

Reverse: Same as BG-780.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer.





235 1870 Octagonal 25¢. BG-789. Rarity-4. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).

Maker: Unknown Maker C.

Edge: Plain.

PCGS Population: 13; 8 finer.



236 1872/1 Octagonal 25¢. BG-790. Rarity-3. Indian Head. MS-65 (PCGS).

Maker: Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

Edge: Plain.

PCGS Population: 21; 2 finer (both MS-66).



237 1872 Octagonal 25¢. BG-791. Rarity-3. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).

Maker: Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

Edge: Plain.

Reverse: Same as BG-791.

PCGS Population: 77; 16 finer.

### Extremely Rare 1873/2 Overdate Quarter Dollar

BG-792, Rarity-7-

Finest Known



238 1873/2 Octagonal 25¢. BG-792. Rarity-7-. Indian Head. MS-65 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Prooflike, bright yellow surfaces. The obverse of this variety was first used to create the fairly common, 1872-dated BG-791. Subsequently, the 2 was altered to a 3, the die was re-hardened, then used to strike a limited number of BG-792. The die must have failed early on, as the obverse has two fairly significant cuds: one on the right edge and another connecting the date to the rim. PCGS has graded only seven examples of this variety, of which this is the best and only MS-65.

Maker: Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

Edge: Plain.

Obverse: Same as BG-791.

Reverse: Same as BG-790.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer!

*Purchased from Henry Hamilton (H&H Enterprises) on April 4, 1988.*



239 Undated 1873 Octagonal 25¢. BG-793. Rarity-5+. Indian Head. MS-65 (PCGS). Tied with one other coin for top honors at PCGS.

Maker: Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

Edge: Plain.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.



### Fabulous Reverse Brockage



**240 1873 Octagonal 25¢. BG-793. Rarity-5. Indian Head. Reverse Brockage. Choice EF-45.** An incredibly rare brockage striking of the reverse of BG-793. Normal prooflike finish on one side, the other with a mushy, mirror image of the reverse (not the obverse, as indicated in the second edition of Breen-Gillio). An extreme rarity that will appeal to error collectors and those who love this series of small denomination California gold coins. This is just one of the unusual, odd and curious pieces that Mr. Rowe accumulated over his decades of collecting.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.



**241 1873 Octagonal 25¢. BG-794. Rarity-5+. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-794.

**PCGS Population:** 13; 1 finer (a MS-65).



**242 1874 Octagonal 25¢. BG-795. Rarity-3. Indian Head. MS-65 (PCGS).**

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-793.

**PCGS Population:** 16; 1 finer (a single MS-66).



**243 1875 Octagonal 25¢. BG-796. Rarity-5. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-793.

**PCGS Population:** 12; 1 finer (a single MS-66).



**244 1875 Octagonal 25¢. BG-797. Rarity-4-. Indian Head. MS-66 (PCGS).** A stunning example of this variety, finer than all the other 99 BG-797's graded by PCGS, standing out as the one and only MS-66.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-793.

**PCGS Population:** 1; none finer!



**245 1875 Octagonal 25¢. BG-798. Rarity-5-. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 18; 3 finer (all MS-65).



**246 1876 Octagonal 25¢. BG-799. Rarity-4. Indian Head. MS-65 (PCGS).** Tied for top honors at PCGS.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** The only 1876 dated Indian Head obverse combined with a "CAL" reverse.

**PCGS Population:** 9; none finer.





- 247 1876 Octagonal 25c. BG-799A. Rarity-6+. Indian Head. MS-65 (PCGS). The finest example graded by PCGS.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

PCGS Population Report: 1; none finer.

The group of Indian Head Gold 1/4 Dollars numbered BG-799 with alpha appendages (e.g. BG-799P2 and BG-799) illustrate the problems with a sequential numbering system. In this case, the number of Period Two octagonal quarter dollars exceeded the 100 numbers allotted to it, thus an alpha-numeric numbering system was used. The discovery of new varieties complicated the process, as they had to be squeezed into the sequence somehow. Thus, we see curious varieties such as 799P2 and varieties with the same major number (e.g. 799Y and 799Z) with completely different design styles. This problem could be corrected with a wholesale renumbering of the varieties or going with a date/obverse/reverse scheme, but then we run into the problem of what to do with the thousands of coins that are in PCGS holders with their variety numbers already assigned!

### Desirable 1876 Quarter Dollar

BG-799B, Rarity 8

The Finest of Two Known  
Jay Rowe's Discovery Coin



- 248 1876 Octagonal 25c. BG-799B. Rarity-8. Indian Head. MS-65 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A Prooflike Gem, here on a bright, yellow-gold planchet. PCGS has graded both of the two known examples: one MS-63 and this amazing Gem. Variety discovered by Jay Rowe in July 1980.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-799A.

PCGS Population Report: 1; none finer.

*Purchased from New England Rare Coin Auctions' "Jubilee" sale, July 24, 1980, Lot 1589.*



- 249 1876 Octagonal 25c. BG-799C. Rarity-4+. Indian Head. MS-65 (PCGS).

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-799A.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-799A.

PCGS Population Report: 11; none finer.



- 250 1876 Octagonal 25c. BG-799D. Rarity-6. Indian Head. MS-65 (PCGS). One of the finest examples known of this very rare variety.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-799A.

PCGS Population Report: 2; none finer.

### Extremely Rare 1878/6 Overdate 25c

BG-799E, Rarity-7+

Jay Rowe's Discovery Coin



- 251 1878/6 Octagonal 25c. BG-799E. Rarity-7+. Indian Head. MS-65 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A wonderful, Prooflike example of this extremely rare overdate variety. Raised die line across the Indian's face. PCGS has graded only two examples of this variety, of which this is the finest by a single point. Variety discovered by Jay Rowe in September 1981. Prooflike, light hairlines.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

PCGS Population Report: 1; none finer.

*Purchased from Jess Peters' Sale #107, September 11, 1981, Lot 19.*





- 252 1876 Octagonal 25¢. BG-799F. Rarity-6-. Indian Head. MS-65 (PCGS). This is one of the finest examples known of the variety.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-799D.

PCGS Population Report: 3; 1 finer (MS-66).



- 253 1878/6 Octagonal 25¢. BG-799G. Rarity-5. Indian Head. MS-65 (PCGS). This piece is tied with five others for top honors at PCGS.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-799E.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-799D.

PCGS Population Report: 6; none finer.



- 254 1880/70 Octagonal 25¢. BG-799H. Rarity-6+. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS). One of the top ten examples of this variety that have been certified by PCGS.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-799C.

PCGS Population Report: 4; 2 finer (both MS-65).



- 255 1880/70 Octagonal 25¢. BG-799I. Rarity-6. Indian Head. MS-65 (PCGS). PCGS has graded only nine examples of this variety, this being the best and only MS-65.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-799H.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-799D.

PCGS Population Report: 1; none finer!



- 256 1880 Octagonal 25¢. BG-799J. Rarity-3. Indian Head. MS-65 (PCGS).

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-799C.

PCGS Population Report: 32; 3 finer.



- 257 1880 Octagonal 25¢. BG-799K. Rarity-6. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-799J.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-799D.

PCGS Population Report: 9; 4 finer (all MS-65).





258 1880 Octagonal 25¢. BG-799L. Rarity-5+. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).

Maker: Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

Edge: Plain.

Obverse: Same as BG-799J.

PCGS Population: 9; 7 finer.



261 1881 Octagonal 25¢. BG-799O. Rarity-4-. Indian Head. MS-65 (PCGS).

Maker: Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

Edge: Plain.

Obverse: Same as BG-799M.

Reverse: Same as BG-799C.

PCGS Population: 32; 2 finer (both MS-66).



259 1881 Octagonal 25¢. BG-799M. Rarity-5-. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).

Maker: Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

Edge: Plain.

Reverse: Same as BG-799C.

PCGS Population: 12; 10 finer.

### Elusive BG-799N Octagonal Quarter Dollar



260 1881 Octagonal 25¢. BG-799N. Rarity-7-. Indian Head. MS-65 (PCGS). Tied with six other examples for top honors at PCGS.

Maker: Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

Edge: Plain.

Obverse: Same as BG-799M.

Reverse: Same as BG-799D.

PCGS Population: 7; none finer.

*Purchased at the Aurora Coin Shop, November 23, 1977.*

### Back-Dated "1874" BG-799P2 Quarter Dollar



262 1874 Octagonal 25¢. BG-799P2. Rarity-7+. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS). PCGS has graded only three examples of this variety, all at the MS-64 level.

Maker: Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

Edge: Plain.

Reverse: Same as BG-799C.

PCGS Population: 3; none finer.

*From Superior's "Club Cal Neva" sale, September 22, 1987, Lot 4538 where it was mis-attributed as BG-799Q. Earlier from the F.C.C. Boyd collection.*

### Back-Dated 1874 BG-799P Quarter Dollar Actually Made Sometime in 1881-1882



263 1874 Octagonal 25¢. BG-799P. Rarity-7+. Indian Head. MS-65 (PCGS). The finest of three examples graded by PCGS.

Maker: Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

Edge: Plain.

Obverse: Same as BG-799P2.

Reverse: Same as BG-799D.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.





264 1874 Octagonal 25¢. BG-799Q. Rarity-5+. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-799P2.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-799L.

**PCGS Population:** 12; 6 finer.



267 1868 Octagonal 25¢. BG-799T. Rarity-5+. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS). Prooflike.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-799R.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-799L.

**PCGS Population:** 10; 4 finer.

*From Kurt Krueger's ANA sale, July 30, 1984, Lot 2766.*

**Extremely Rare BG-799R 25c**  
Most Likely Made 13-15 Years After the Date on the Coin



265 1868 Octagonal 25¢. BG-799R. Rarity-7. Indian Head. MS-65 (PCGS). PCGS has graded only five examples of this variety; of those, only two (including the example offered here) have reached this pinnacle.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-799C.

**PCGS Population:** 2; none finer.

*From Kurt Krueger's ANA sale, July 30, 1984, Lot 2764.*



268 1852 Octagonal 25¢. BG-799U. Rarity-5+. Indian Head. MS-65 (PCGS). Tied with five others for top honors at PCGS.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-799L.

**PCGS Population:** 6; none finer.

**"1852" Indian Head BG-799V 25c**  
One of the Finest Known



269 1852 Octagonal 25¢. BG-799V. Rarity-7+. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS). PCGS has graded only seven examples of this variety, this being tied with four others for second place honors.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-799R.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-799D.

**PCGS Population:** 5; 1 finer (MS-65).

**Tied For Finest 1868 BG-799S Quarter Dollar**  
Another Back-Dated Issue, Rarity-7+



266 1868 Octagonal 25¢. BG-799S. Rarity-7+. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS). PCGS has graded only four examples of this variety, all at the MS-64 level (some duplication here, perhaps?).

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-799R.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-799D.

**PCGS Population:** 4; none finer.





- 270 1880 Octagonal 25¢. BG-799W. Rarity-6+. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).

Maker: F.H. Noble.

Edge: Plain.

PCGS Population: 6; 2 finer (both MS-65).



- 271 1880 Octagonal 25¢. BG-799. Rarity-3. Indian Head. MS-63 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition Breen-Gillo (to illustrate State I).

Maker: F.H. Noble.

Edge: Plain.

Reverse: Same as BG-799W.

PCGS Population: 45; 66 finer.



- 272 1880 Octagonal 25¢. BG-799X. Rarity-3. Indian Head. MS-65 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition Breen-Gillo (to illustrate state II).

Maker: F.H. Noble.

Edge: Plain.

Reverse: Same as BG-799W.

PCGS Population: 45; 66 finer.



- 273 1880 Octagonal 25¢. BG-799Y. Rarity-4+. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).

Maker: F.H. Noble.

Edge: Plain.

Reverse: Same as BG-799W.

PCGS Population: 20; 2 finer (both MS-65).

### Elusive 1881 BG-799Z Quarter Dollar By the same Maker of the 1/4 CAL-GOLD Tokens



- 274 1881 Octagonal 25¢. BG-799Z. Rarity-7+. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS). PCGS has graded only four examples of this variety; two in MS-62 (including this piece), one in MS-63, and another in MS-64.

Maker: Unknown Maker "D".

Edge: Plain.

PCGS Population: 2; 2 finer.

### 1881 "Obese Indian" Octagonal Quarter Dollar



- 275 1881 Octagonal 25¢. BG-799AA. Rarity-7. Indian Head. AU-58 (PCGS). PCGS has graded only seven examples of this variety. Though tied numerically to the BG-799 varieties made by Christopher Mohrig, this was made by a completely unknown manufacturer. The primary difference between the two types is the arrangement of the obverse stars. On the Mohrig varieties, six stars appear on the left side of the obverse and seven appear on the right. On this variety, five stars appear on the left side and eight on the right. In 1881, when the makers felt the law breathing down their necks, they took the obverse and mated it with a reverse that read "1/4 CAL GOLD" but made no mention of the word DOLLAR. Of the 12 examples listed by Leonard et al, this piece ranks in tenth place. Still, any coin of which there are only a dozen known must be considered an important rarity. And, since Leonard et al suspect "many duplicates..." in their list, the actual rarity (and ranking) of this piece might be much better.

Maker: Unknown Maker "E".

Edge: Plain.

PCGS Population: 1; 6 finer.





276 1881 Octagonal 25c. BG-799BB. Rarity-6+. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS). Tied with one other example for top honors at PCGS.

Maker: Unknown Maker "F".

Edge: Plain.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

### Desirable BG-799CC

The Only Octagonal Quarter Dollar by Nast,  
Greenzweig & Co.



277 1882 Octagonal 25c. BG-799CC. Rarity-6. Indian Head. Choice AU-55. The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Brilliant yellow, with prooflike tendencies and some darker color on the highest points. Minor lamination flaws appear on both sides and the bottom edge facet has an interesting, slightly curled lip. Variety discovered by Kenneth Lee but not described by him until 1970. Extremely desirable and sought-after because this is the only octagonal quarter dollar issued by Nast, Greenzweig & Co. Bob Leonard calls this "...the climax of the Indian Heads, and the key coin of the series."

Maker: Nast, Greenzweig & Co.

Edge: Plain.

### "1852" Back-Dated BG-799DD Quarter Dollar



278 1852 Octagonal 25c. BG-799DD. Rarity-7+. Indian Head. MS-65 (PCGS). One of the finest examples of a mere five pieces graded by PCGS; tied with one other piece for top honors.

Maker: Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

Edge: Plain.

Obverse: Same as BG-799R.

Reverse: Same as BG-799A.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.

Purchased from Universal Coin & Stamp, June 23, 1983.

### Exceedingly Rare BG-800 25c One of Two Known



279 1858 Round 25c. BG-800. Rarity-8. Liberty Head. Choice AU-55. The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A fabulous rarity, represented currently by only two examples, both of which have been off the market since 1990 and before. In the past, this piece has been given the numbers BG-216A and BG-216W, and assigned to Frontier, Deviercy & Co. in Period One. However, subsequent research places this piece with the same maker, but in Period Two. The placement of this piece into a particular Period is of interest to the advanced researcher but, of greater interest to the potential bidders, this is the first chance to acquire this variety in 23 years! Once gone, when will you have another chance to acquire this important variety?

Maker: Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

Edge: Weakly reeded.

From our sale of the Boyd, Brand & Ryder collections, March 28, 1990, Lot 1701. Acquired by Virgil Brand in 1920.



280 1859 Round 25c. BG-801. Rarity-3. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).

Maker: Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

Edge: Weakly reeded.

PCGS Population: 35; 12 finer.



281 1865 Round 25c. BG-802. Rarity-5-. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).

Maker: Frontier & Co.

Edge: Weakly reeded.

Obverse: Same as BG-801, here in a later state, with die rust and repolishing of the surfaces (perhaps in an attempt to remove the rust).

Reverse: Sloppily engraved wreath, the left branch leaning away from the rim near the top. No fraction bar. DOLA (instead of DOLLAR). This die was also used on BG-803.

PCGS Population: 12; 2 finer (both MS-65).





**282 1865 Round 25¢. BG-803. Rarity-5+. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**  
One of the top six examples certified by PCGS, exceeded by only a single MS-65.

**Maker:** Frontier & Co.

**Edge:** Weakly reeded.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-802.

**PCGS Population:** 5; 1 finer (MS-65).



**286 1868 Round 25¢. BG-806. Rarity-3. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

**Maker:** Frontier & Co.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-805.

**Die State II:** A heavy crack runs across the top of the reverse, connecting the rims, the tips of the wreaths, and the top of the numeral.

**PCGS Population:** 39; 58 finer.



**283 1866 Round 25¢. BG-804. Rarity-4. Liberty Head. MS-65 (PCGS).**

**Maker:** Frontier & Co.

**Edge:** Weakly reeded.

**PCGS Population:** 15; 2 finer (both in MS-66).

### Extremely Rare 1870 BG-807 Quarter Dollar



**287 1870 Round 25¢. BG-807. Rarity-7-. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition for Breen-Gillo. One of the top seven examples certified by PCGS, exceeded by only a single MS-65.

**Maker:** Frontier & Co.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-804.

**PCGS Population:** 6; 1 finer.



**284 1867 Round 25¢. BG-805. Rarity-5-. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

**Maker:** Frontier & Co.

**Edge:** Weakly reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-804.

**PCGS Population:** 13; 8 finer.



**288 1870 Round 25¢. BG-808. Rarity-3. Liberty Head. MS-65 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition for Breen-Gillo (to illustrate State II).

**Maker:** Frontier & Co.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-804.

**PCGS Population:** 39; 10 finer.



**285 1868 Round 25¢. BG-806. Rarity-3. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

**Maker:** Frontier & Co.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-804.

**Die State I:** Unbroken reverse.

**PCGS Population:** 39; 58 finer.





289 1871 Round 25¢. BG-809. Rarity-4-. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).

Maker: Frontier & Co.

Edge: Plain.

Obverse: Same as BG-804.

PCGS Population: 23; 20 finer.



292 1871 Round 25¢. BG-812. Rarity-5-. Liberty Head. MS-65 (PCGS).

Maker: Frontier & Co.

Edge: Plain.

Obverse: Same as BG-872.

### Hard-To-Find 1871 BG-810 25c



290 1871 Round 25¢. BG-810. Rarity-7-. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).

PCGS has graded only nine examples of this variety, all in Mint State.

Maker: Frontier & Co.

Edge: Plain.

Obverse: Same as BG-804.

PCGS Population: 2; 7 finer.

From Kagin's "Central States" sale, May 12, 1978, Lot 1220.



293 1871 Round 25¢. BG-813. Rarity-3. Liberty Head. MS-66 (PCGS).

Maker: Frontier & Co.

Edge: Plain.



294 1872 Round 25¢. BG-814. Rarity-5+. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).

Among the top seven examples certified by PCGS.

Maker: Frontier & Bellemere.

Edge: Plain.

Reverse: Same as BG-813.

PCGS Population: 5; 2 finer.

### Underrated 1871 BG-811 25c

One of Six Known



291 1871 Round 25¢. BG-811. Rarity-7+. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).

The finest of the only two examples graded thus far by PCGS, exceeding the next finest by a full two points.

Maker: Frontier & Co.

Edge: Plain.

Obverse: Same as BG-804.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

### Rare 1872 Round 25c



295 1872 Round 25¢. BG-815. Rarity-7+. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).

Tied with one other for top honors at PCGS. PCGS has graded only six examples of this variety.

Maker: Frontier & Bellemere.

Edge: Crudely reeded.

Obverse: Same as BG-815.

PCGS Population: 2; none finer.





296 1872 Round 25¢. BG-816. Rarity-6. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).

Among the top five examples certified by PCGS.

**Maker:** Frontier & Bellemere.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-814.

**PCGS Population:** 4; 1 finer (MS-65).



297 1873 Round 25¢. BG-817. Rarity-3. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).

**Maker:** Frontier & Bellemere.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-816.

**PCGS Population:** 47; 15 finer.



298 1872 Round 25¢. BG-818. Rarity-4-. Washington Head. MS-64 (PCGS). Not the rarest California gold piece, but certainly one of the most popular types.

**Maker:** Frontier & Bellemere.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-816.

**PCGS Population:** 28; 20 finer.

## Unique Trial Piece From Octagonal Dies

BG-818A

First-ever Public Offering



299 1856 Round 25¢. BG-818A. Rarity-8+. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Bright, yellow-gold color. Struck from heavily clashed dies, with evidence of the contact visible on both sides. Variety discovered by Jay Rowe in 1988. One of the great anomalies of the series, featuring the octagonal dies of BG-111, but on a round planchet! Initially, this variety was thought to be from Period One and was assigned the pseudo BG number 231. Later, Mike Locke discovered that this was, in fact, a later striking from the dies of BG-111. Eventually, this die was overdated to create an 1860 reverse for BG-729! A fabulous rarity with a great story – certain to excite the specialist.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Weight:** 0.22 grams

**Diameter:** 9.8 mm

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** None of this variety have been graded by PCGS.

*Purchased from Dan and Eileen Lorain on August 30, 1988. Dan was the son-in-law of a man who had the New York collection said to contain over 2,000 pieces of California small denomination gold coins!*



300 1860/50 Round 25¢. BG-819. Rarity-4. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Tied with four others as the finest examples graded by PCGS.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Weakly reeded.

**PCGS Population:** 5; none finer.





**301 1863 Round 25¢. BG-820. Rarity-5. Liberty Head/Shield. AU-50.** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Lightly hairlined on both sides, now toned to a warm, golden-yellow color. Nicely struck on the obverse, although the very highest points are soft. Weakly struck (as always) on the reverse, which shattered and sank early on.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Weakly reeded.



**302 1864 Round 25¢. BG-821. Rarity-5-. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).**

This is the second finest example certified by PCGS, exceeded by a single MS-64.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-820.

**PCGS Population:** 1; 1 finer (MS-64).



**303 1865 Round 25¢. BG-822. Rarity-4. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS).**

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as 820.

**PCGS Population:** 6; 45 finer.

## Desirable 1866-G Quarter Dollar



**304 1866-G Round 25¢. BG-823. Rarity-7. Liberty Head. MS-61 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Of the seven examples certified by PCGS, this is one of the top three, exceeded only by a single MS-63.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 2; 1 finer (MS-63).

*From our June 11, 1980 sale, Lot 4908.*



**305 1866-G Round 25¢. BG-824. Rarity-5+. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 4; 11 finer.



**306 1867-G Round 25¢. BG-825. Rarity-4. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Tied with one other piece for top honors at PCGS.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-824.

**PCGS Population:** 2; none finer.





**307 1869-G Round 25¢. BG-826. Rarity-4. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**PCGS Population:** 13; 12 finer.



**308 1869-G Round 25¢. BG-827. Rarity-5. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. One of the finest examples certified by PCGS.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-826.

**PCGS Population:** 10; 6 finer.



**309 1869-G Round 25¢. BG-828. Rarity-4+. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-826.

**PCGS Population:** 18; 12 finer.



**310 1869-G Round 25¢. BG-829. Rarity-5-. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. One of the finest examples certified by PCGS, exceeded only by two MS-64 pieces.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-826.

**PCGS Population:** 5; 2 finer (both MS-64).



**311 1869-G Round 25¢. BG-830. Rarity-5+. Liberty Head. EF-40.** The

plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Lightly cleaned, now retoned to a soft, coppery-red color. This issue is supposedly made of a base gold with a layer of gold-plating. If so, the plating adhered perfectly, as neither side shows any of the bubbling and peeling that often afflicts other plated examples. Variety discovered by David Doering sometime between 1980 and 1982, then published in his 1982 *California Fractional Gold*.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Weakly reeded.



**312 1870-G Round 25¢. BG-832. Rarity-6-. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. One of only a dozen Mint State examples certified by PCGS.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**PCGS Population:** 7; 4 finer.



**313 1870-G Round 25¢. BG-833. Rarity-6-. Liberty Head. MS-61 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

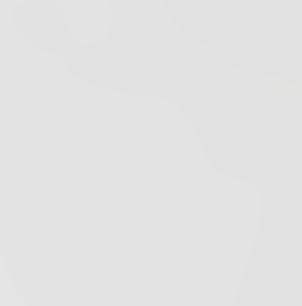
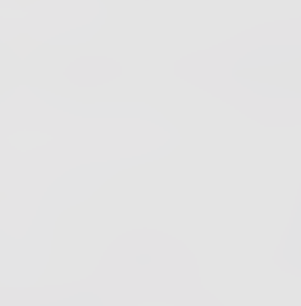
**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-830.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-832.

**PCGS Population:** 3; 4 finer.







314 Undated (1870-1871)-G Round 25¢. BG-834. Rarity-5+. Liberty Head. MS-61 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

Maker: Robert B. Gray & Co.

Edge: Crudely reeded.

Obverse: Same as BG-830.

Reverse: Same as BG-839.

PCGS Population: 1; 8 finer.



315 1870-G Round 25¢. BG-835. Rarity-3. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS).

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

Maker: Robert B. Gray & Co.

Edge: Weakly reeded.

PCGS Population: 37; 109 finer.

### Extremely Rare 1870-G BG-835A Quarter Dollar



316 1870-G Round 25¢. BG-835A. Rarity-7+. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. PCGS has graded only three examples of this variety.

Maker: Robert B. Gray & Co.

Edge: Plain.

Obverse: Same as BG-835.

Reverse: Same as BG-834.

PCGS Population: 1; 1 finer (MS-61).

Purchased from Robert B. Lecce on August 19, 1991.

### Extremely Rare BG-836 One of Four Pieces Currently Known



317 1870-G Round 25¢. BG-836. Rarity-7+. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS). The plate coin for Doering and the second edition of Breen-Gillio. PCGS has graded only two examples of this variety.

Maker: Robert B. Gray & Co.

Edge: Plain.

Obverse: Same as BG-834.

PCGS Population: 1; only 1 finer (MS-61).

From Pacific Coast Auction Galleries' "NCNA" sale, September 20, 1985, Lot 429. Earlier from Superior's sale of the Jerry Buss collection, January 30, 1985, Lot 2143. Earlier from Doering.

### Attractive 1871 BG-837 Rarity



318 1871-G Round 25¢. BG-837. Rarity-7. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. One of only seven examples certified by PCGS.

Maker: Robert B. Gray & Co.

Edge: Crudely reeded.

Reverse: Same as BG-836.

PCGS Population: 2; 1 finer (MS-63).

From Superior's sale of the Jascha Heifetz collection, October 1, 1989, Lot 232.



319 1871-G Round 25¢. BG-838. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State I).

Maker: Robert B. Gray & Co.

Edge: Plain.

Reverse: Same as BG-836.

PCGS Population: 56; hundreds finer. According to the PCGS Population Report, they have graded more examples of this variety than any other!





**320 1871-G Round 25¢. BG-838. Rarity-2. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State II).

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-836.



**321 1871-G Round 25¢. BG-839. Rarity-4. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Bright yellow gold with a trace of olive iridescence. Reflective fields support frosty motifs. A lovely specimen that represents the grade and variety admirably.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Weight:** 0.25 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.8 mm.

**Edge:** Plain, partial crude reeding in places.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-838, G maker's mark repunched. Die now repolished, raised polish lines on Liberty's portrait, hollow areas from heavy polishing around eye and coronet. Six-pointed stars made of equal segments.

**Reverse:** Shattered die of BG-834. Cracks from rim to wreath at 12:00, 3:00, 5:30, and 9:00, plus other minute cracks within wreath and around devices. Low C in CAL, A without crossbar, no berries.

**PCGS Population:** 18; 6 finer.

*Purchased from New England Rare Coin Galleries, July 25, 1977.*



**322 1871-G Round 25¢. BG-840. Rarity-4. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Bright yellow gold with olive highlights. A prooflike and thoroughly appealing specimen of this plentiful issue.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Weight:** 0.24 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.8 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-839, G maker's mark repunched. Die now repolished again, hollow around Liberty's eye larger, coronet now virtually separate from hair, die polish lines on portrait, small cracks in field.

**Reverse:** Berries 3 left, 4 right. Wreath separated on right side at 3:00, denominator touches diagonal fraction bar above, DOLLAR widely spaced, R low, CAL far to right, period after L. weak, no crossbar in either A.

**PCGS Population:** 21; 10 finer.

*Purchased from Kurt Krueger, July 30, 1979.*



**323 1871-L Round 25¢. BG-841. Rarity-4. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Lustrous and prooflike with frosted motifs and mirrored fields. Some faint obverse scatches are noted under low magnification. Still, a lovely representative example of the variety. Noted collector John H. Clapp (incorrectly identified in Breen-Gillio Second Edition as George H. Clap) had a specimen of this variety in his substantial holdings, that piece purchased from Ed. Frossard's auction of September 16, 1901 (ex Christian G. Moritz).

**Maker:** California Jewelry Co.

**Weight:** 0.29 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.9 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** L maker's mark touches truncation above, top loop of 8 in date filled. Six-pointed stars made of equal segments.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-840; this possibly preceded BG-840, as the period after CAL is bold and strong for this use of the die.

**PCGS Population:** 16; 10 finer.

*Purchased from Richard Johnson, July 30, 1979.*



**324 1873 Round 25¢. BG-842. Rarity-6. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Large Date. Pale yellow gold with some prooflike reflectivity. Some faint hairlines are noted, otherwise the surfaces are undisturbed by contact marks. A pleasing example of a fairly scarce variety, first discovered by Kenneth W. Lee (Lee 41A), circa 1950-55. One of the top examples certified by PCGS, exceeded by only a single MS-64.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Weight:** 0.14 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.7 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Large date, flat-topped 3 in date. Six-pointed stars made of equal segments. Crosstatch of raised polish lines on Liberty's cheek, hollows around hair and coronet.

**Reverse:** Berries configured two pairs per branch.

**PCGS Population:** 4; 1 finer (MS-64).

*Purchased from Tom's Coins, Littleton, Massachusetts, November 18, 1977.*





**325 1874 Round 25¢. BG-843. Rarity-6+. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Curved Date. Medium yellow gold with some prooflike reflectivity and olive highlights. Light hairlines present, otherwise devoid of marks of consequence. A very scarce variety that should enjoy spirited bidding activity. Discovered by Robert H. Burnie (Burnie 99), circa 1952-55. One of the nicest examples certified by PCGS.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Weight:** 0.15 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.7 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Curved Date, numerals follow curve of rim. Raised die polish lines on Liberty's portrait, top of 4 in date filled. Six-pointed stars made of equal segments.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-842, now repolished with berries diminished in size or missing and portions of the wreath stem missing as a result.

**PCGS Population:** 5; only 1 finer (MS-65).

*Purchased from Green Mountain Coin & Stamp, May 6, 1979.*



**327 1874 Round 25¢. BG-845. Rarity-6. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Highly lustrous yellow gold with some deeper highlights and prooflike reflectivity. "Ghosts" (see below) seen in obverse field; this scarce variety is often seen with these ethereal marks. A lot of coin for the assigned grade.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Weight:** 0.12 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.6 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-844, now repolished, doubling at 6th star now removed.

**Reverse:** No berries, four groups of triple leaves on each side of wreath.

The small planchet depressions plainly seen on the above piece are what the British Royal Mint refers to as "ghosts." This phenomenon is caused by areas of high relief drawing up available metal during the striking process; they are not damage or a blemish, and can be seen on many issues in the California Small Denomination gold series.

**PCGS Population:** 1; 10 finer.

*From our sale of the Schreeder Collection, April 1979, Lot 1828.*



**326 1874 Round 25¢. BG-844. Rarity-5+. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Deep honey gold with lustre and some prooflike reflectivity. An altogether pleasing example of this scarce variety. Tied with five others for top honors at PCGS.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Weight:** 0.14 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.7 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** 1 and 4 in date heavily punched, 87 lightly punched, star 6 repunched. Six-pointed stars made of equal segments. Die cracks from rim at stars 2 and 10, the latter reaching to the back of Liberty's hair bun, also cracks at date.

**Reverse:** D of DOLLAR punched at least three times, once inverted, then correctly but too high, then in an acceptable position, O also repunched. Vertical die line at back of 1 in fraction. Cracks from rim at 12:00 and 3:00, also from bottom of wreath upward through A in CAL, then to OL in DOLLAR.

**PCGS Population:** 6; none finer.

*Purchased from Art Kagin, April 23, 1979.*



**328 1875 Round 25¢. BG-846. Rarity-6. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Vibrant, prooflike yellow gold surfaces with olive highlights. Frosty motifs and mirror fields form an outstanding cameo contrast. Decidedly choice for the grade despite heavy clash marks and a few "ghosts" on the obverse. Technically a "DOLIAR" variety; this specimen is missing a support for the second L in the denomination, giving a curious spin to the word. The new Breen-Gillio reference (Second Edition, 2003) notes that BG-846 is "typically brilliant Prooflike Uncirculated with dent-like "ghosts," a textbook description of the present coin! This is one of the finest known.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Weight:** 0.12 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.6 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-844, now repolished, doubling at 6th star now removed.

**Reverse:** No berries, four groups of triple leaves on each side of wreath.

The small planchet depressions plainly seen on the above piece are what the British Royal Mint refers to as "ghosts." This phenomenon is caused by areas of high relief drawing up available metal during the striking process; they are not damage or a blemish, and can be seen on many issues in the California Small Denomination gold series.

**PCGS Population:** 1; 10 finer.

*From our sale of the Schreeder Collection, April 1979, Lot 1828.*





**329 1875 Round 25¢. BG-847. Rarity-4. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Bright yellow gold, a prooflike beauty with olive highlights and heavy cameo contrast. Decidedly choice; a few small "ghosts" are the only marks that disturb the otherwise pristine surfaces. Sharply struck, with even the tiny beads in the Indian's headband singly represented. Struck from ore with a high silver content.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Weight:** 0.14 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.7 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Five-pointed stars with central hollows, uppermost star attached to uppermost feather. Top of 8 in date open, bottom of numeral dramatically repunched, 7 punched four times (!). The 1 and 8 are spaced nicely, with the 8, 7, and 5 far from each other. The 7 was first punched in a closer position to the 8, then repunched farther away by the die maker probably upon realizing that if the spacing remained the same as between the 1 and 8, the date would be far left and there would be plenty of room for a 14th star. As a result he punched the 7 multiple times, each closer to the right of the bust, and then placed the 5 even farther apart to fill in the space below the truncation; ah, finicky artists!

**Reverse:** Same as BG-846, here perhaps lightly repolished again; an obvious and tantalizing link between "Maker J" and "Maker K."

**PCGS Population:** 20; 2 finer.

*Purchased from David Doering, April 17, 1978.*



**330 1875 Round 25¢. BG-847. Rarity-4. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

Bright and lustrous yellow gold with olive iridescence and chiefly satiny fields that are only somewhat reflective.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Weight:** 0.16 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.7 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-847.

**Reverse:** Variant of BG-847, wreath details essentially unchanged, but the fraction denominator has been re-engraved, the bottom of that numeral now scalloped rather than a flat serif, DOLLAR CAL now all heavily punched into the die with some letters appearing larger than on BG-847 above. Fraction numerator and denominator connected by vertical die line, die crack from rim at 3:00 through wreath to R in DOLLAR, then branching off, downward to L in CAL, and also horizontally to A in DOLLAR and then upward to the fraction.

*Purchased from David Doering, December 8, 1978.*

**1875 Indian Head Round 25¢ Rarity**

**BG-848, Low Rarity-7**



**331 1875 Round 25¢. BG-848. Rarity-7-. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Lustrous yellow gold. A delightful prooflike cameo with lively olive highlights. Devoid of marks of consequence save for some light "ghosts" and a tiny planchet wave, no doubt as produced. A beautiful example of a rare variety, one that has withstood the recent revamping of the rarity ratings in the California Small Denomination gold series very well (this variety was called "High Rarity-7" and "One of fewer than six pieces thought to exist" in the Texas Collection in 1992, and has barely slipped at all in the ensuing 11 years). One of just a dozen examples of the variety enumerated by Bob Leonard in the newest edition of the Breen-Gillio reference, though he cautions that his census listing contains "probably two or more duplicates." Discovered by Robert H. Burnie, circa 1952-55 (Burnie-110). One of the finest examples known of the variety; tied for top honors at PCGS.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Weight:** 0.12 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.7 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-847.

**Reverse:** Wreath with five groups of three leaves on each side, 6 berries left (perhaps seven), all but one disconnected from wreath, seven berries right, all disconnected from the wreath, period after CAL.

**PCGS Population:** 3; none finer.

*Purchased from New England Rare Coin Galleries, February 1, 1978.*





**332 1876 Round 25¢. BG-849. Rarity-5+. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Lustrous yellow gold, satiny on the obverse, somewhat prooflike on the reverse. Some striking weakness at the peripheries. A delightfully appealing example of a scarce and popular Indian Head issue. Discovered by Kenneth W. Lee, circa 1955-70 (Lee-50C). This is one of the finest examples known, tied with three others for top honors at PCGS.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Weight:** 0.11 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.6 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Crude, rustic date numerals, tip of bust close to top of 8. Five-pointed stars hollow at centers, but mostly filled in on the present specimen. Indian appears to have a sizeable Adam's apple due to die polishing in that area.

**Reverse:** Three pairs of berries on each side of wreath, most with long stems, a few disconnected. Die cracked from rim near 5:00 upward across wreath to L in CAL, and from there it branches to the First L in DOLLAR and to the A of that word as well. The base of the 4 in the fraction is as long as the numeral is wide.

**PCGS Population:** 4; none finer.

*Purchased from David Doering, November 30, 1978.*



**333 1876 Round 25¢. BG-850. Rarity-6-. Indian Head. MS-63 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Lustrous, prooflike deep honey gold with rose and sky blue iridescence. A pleasing example of a scarce variety, first discovered and described by Jay Rowe in February 1980.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Weight:** 0.14 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.7 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Very similar to BG-849, numerals here less crude and bolder in the die, rounded tip of bust touches top of 8 below, as though all of the details on BG-849 have been redone and strengthened. Five-pointed stars hollow at centers, but mostly filled in on the present specimen. Indian without the "Adam's apple" appearance of BG-849. (Perhaps BG-849 is a polished state of BG-850).

**Reverse:** Five groups of three leaves to each side, five large pairs and one tiny pair of berries to left, three large pairs, two tiny pairs to right. Period after CAL.

**PCGS Population:** 7; 5 finer.

*From NASCA's sale of the Elliot Collection, May 2, 1979, Lot:3436.*

**Impressive 1876 Round 25¢ Rarity**

**From the Texas Collection**

**BG-851, Low Rarity-7**



**334 1876 Round 25¢. BG-851. Rarity-7-. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Highly lustrous honey gold with rich orange highlights. An impressive specimen of this elusive rarity and one of the top coins certified by PCGS. The satiny motifs and mirror fields combine for a pleasing cameo effect. Called "Rarity-7" in our sale of the Texas Collection, this variety has barely budged from that level in the ensuing 11 years. Discovered by Kenneth W. Lee circa 1955-70 (Lee-50D). One of 12 examples enumerated by Bob Leonard in the newest edition of the Breen-Gillio reference, with a note that some duplication may have occurred in the listing. Rare by all accounts, and definitely a highlight of this portion of the sale.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Weight:** 0.14 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.5 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-850, here lightly replished.

**Reverse:** Five groups of three leaves to each side, five pairs of berries to each side, the berries sometimes oddly sized compared to the other berry of the pair. A die mark at the end of a leaf appears similar to a berry and is connected to the outer edge of the loop of the R in DOLLAR. The fraction bar tapers to a thin and tenuous strip at the center. Bottom of O broken, trace of base of erroneously placed L in field above A in CAL, top of A in DOLLAR repunched.

**PCGS Population:** 4; none finer.

*From our sale of the Texas Collection, January 1992, Lot 4202.*



**335 1876 Round 25¢. BG-852. Rarity-5+. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Fully brilliant and highly lustrous yellow gold with distinctive olive iridescence. A bold cameo contrast exists between the frosted motifs and mirrored fields, and a few faint "ghosts" are noted on the reverse. Definitely choice for the grade. Tied with eight others for "finest graded" by PCGS.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Weight:** 0.13 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.7 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Point of Indian's bust impaled on 1 in date, 8 broadly repunched, 6 filled and possibly over a 5. Five-pointed stars with hollow centers. First three stars evenly and closely spaced, next three widely spaced, final seven fairly evenly spaced. Stars 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 all repunched to some degree. Faint die crack meanders upward from 6 of date to feathers above.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-851, here repolished with berry sizes now varying, crossbar of fraction now two distinct pieces. Base of L still seen in field above A in CAL, repunching still seen at top of A in DOLLAR.

**PCGS Population:** 9; none finer.

*Purchased from Harmer-Rooke, March 1, 1978.*





**336 1876 Round 25¢. BG-853. Rarity-5-. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Lustrous honey gold with satiny motifs and mirror fields. A particularly bright specimen with an abundance of eye appeal. One of the finest examples known of the variety.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Weight:** 0.12 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.6 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-852.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-849.

**PCGS Population:** 11; 2 finer.

*Purchased from Kurt Krueger, December 3, 1982.*

## Important 1881 Round Indian Head 25¢

BG-853A, Rarity-8

"Rediscovered" by Jay Roe



**337 1881 Round 25¢. BG-853A. Rarity-8. Indian Head. AU-55.** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Bright yellow gold with olive highlights on frosty motifs and mirror fields. Holed at top (fairly meaningless in context of rarity; who would turn their nose up at an 1804 Draped Bust dollar, for instance, with a hole?). First discovered by Robert H. Burnie circa 1952-55 (Burnie-133), but overlooked in the first edition of his reference; later "rediscovered" by Jay Roe, March 24, 1994 in a purchase from Allen Stockton. Variouslly called "BG-853W" by Jay Roe, then "BG-893" by PCGS, now re-designated BG-853A (for uniformity of numbering) in the new reference. A great rarity, one of perhaps just three specimens thought to exist, though confirmation of just *two* examples is certain. Missing from virtually every major collection of Small Denomination California gold ever assembled-except, of course, the Jay Rowe Collection (and another outstanding collection now being formed). The presently offered specimen is the only example of the variety likely to become available to collectors in the immediate future. Interestingly enough, this is the only coin with a hole used to illustrate the new Breen-Gillio reference, a sure indicator of this coin's rarity.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Weight:** 0.22 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.5 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Large Indian head surrounded by 13 five-pointed hollow stars, star 3 opposite tip of Indian's nose, star 6 virtually touches front curve of first feather in headdress, points of star 7 appear to touch tips of first and second feathers (hole makes it uncertain, though). Date numerals all touch dentils below, first 1 joined to underside of truncation above, crudely rounded bust to Indian.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-853.

*Purchased from Allen Stockton, March 24, 1994.*





- 338 1876 Round 25¢. BG-854, "Baby Head." Rarity-5-. Liberty Head. MS-65 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Intensely lustrous honey gold with a pleasing cameo contrast. A definite gem of virtually unimproveable quality (in point of fact, none have been graded finer by PCGS). A moderately scarce "Baby Head" variety that will certainly find a new home in an advanced California Small Denomination gold set.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Weight:** 0.27 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.9 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Date numerals and 13 hollow five-pointed stars all touch elongated triangular dentils. Point of bust falls below tops of 1 and 8 in date, closer to 8. Three raised diagonal die lines across coronet. Clash marks around date and bottom of bust.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-849, here with die cracks around the denomination that signal the near-end of usefulness for this evidently workhorse die.

**PCGS Population:** 3; none finer.

*From Kagin's sale of May 12, 1978, Lot 1233.*

### Rare 1876 Liberty Head Round 25¢ BG-855, Rarity-7



- 339 1876 Round 25¢. BG-855, "Baby Head." Rarity-7. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A deep honey gold specimen with fiery orange highlights. Highly lustrous and heartily prooflike; if a gem designation were attached to this coin, virtually no one would complain about overgrading! A very rare variety first discovered by Jay Roe in August 1980. This variety was called "Rarity-7+" in our sale of the Texas Collection; since the recent revamping of the rarity ratings for this series, only the "+" has been dropped from the rarity rating—not a bad showing over the course of 11 years, especially when you consider that many Rarity-7 varieties have since been re-designated as low as Rarity-6 or even Rarity-5 in some instances! Perhaps a dozen or so examples of this rarity are currently accounted for. The new Breen-Gillio reference enumerates 11 known specimens, some of which may be duplicate listings (not all auction houses keep careful tabs on pedigrees of coins). A splendid opportunity for an advanced specialist in the series to obtain one of the more elusive rarities that always seem to elude the underbidder. In addition, this is the finest of five examples of this variety certified by PCGS.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Weight:** 0.17 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.5 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-854.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-850.

**PCGS Population:** 1; none finer.

*From Harmer-Rooke's sale of February 1, 1978, Lot 76.*

### Very Rare 1876 Round 25¢ BG-856, Rarity-7+



- 340 1876 Round 25¢. BG-856, "Baby Head." Rarity-7+. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Lustrous olive gold with reflective fields and frosty motifs. Another rarity, the present piece being easily among the finest known of the variety (it's certainly one of the finest examples certified by PCGS). The new Breen-Gillio reference lists just *seven* known examples of the variety, a list which may include duplicate listings of some specimens. Bowers and Merena has offered no fewer than *three* of the known specimens, including one each in our Texas Collection, Van Arsdall Collection, and another in the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection. The present specimen has been out of the numismatic marketplace for 24 years. A splendid opportunity to obtain a rare coin of which pride of ownership would no doubt be immense. One strong bid places you in a category with the well-known and equally well-admired collectors who have also had an example of BG-856 in their cabinet.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Weight:** 0.16 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.5 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-854.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-851.

**PCGS Population:** 1; 2 finer.

*Purchased from John Chase, October 14, 1979.*



**Unique 1871-H Round 25¢**

BG-856A, Unique  
Formerly Called BG-857W, BG-857A



- 341 1871-H Round 25¢. BG-856A. Rarity-8+. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Lustrous yellow gold with some olive highlights on the frosty motifs and mirror fields. Sharp and appealing, especially so the tall, thin representation of Liberty on the obverse. A lovely coin for the grade, and one that is currently believed to be *unique*, the only representative example of the die combination currently known (another has been rumored, see below). Discovered by Coin a Galleries (Stack's) cataloguer in July 1995. Made by Hershfield & Mitchell of Leavenworth, Kansas, and among the only Period Two issues that were definitely made in the year dated. Extremely rare; Hershfield & Mitchell were heavily persecuted by the federal government, their issues suppressed and destroyed, making for some extremely scarce varieties within the period of issue from these makers. Rarity? You won't find a rarer issue in this catalogue!

**Maker:** Hershfield & Mitchell.

**Weight:** 0.29 grams.

**Diameter:** 10.0 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-857, see description under that variety.

**Reverse:** AA. Four sets of triple leafs on each side of wreath, three pairs of berries each side, no berries at juncture of wreath stems. Large numerals in fraction, 1 with serifs, 4 plain and unadorned. Die crack from rim to wreath at 5:00, raised die lump at juncture of first leaf and outer berry on left (7:00), die crack from rim to wreath at 11:00.

The present specimen is called the "only survivor" in the new Breen-Gillio reference, although a July 13, 1998 *Coin World* ad placed by Don Kagin offers the "Second Finest" collection for sale, including a "BG-857A" in a Mint State-63 PCGS holder (remember, BG-857A, as mentioned in the ad, is now redesignated as BG-856A, like the present coin). However, no such coin appears in the PCGS *Population Report*, leading the author of the new BG reference to surmise that the Kagin offering may have been wrongly attributed, and thus removed from the population figures for the variety after the piece in question was correctly identified.

*From the Coin Galleries sale of July 18, 1995, Lot 1132.*



- 342 1871-H Round 25¢. BG-857. Rarity-4+. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Highly lustrous yellow gold with attractive olive nuances. Prooflike, with frosty motifs and mirror fields. A definitive example of the date and grade combination, a coin that many might consider even finer than the grade preferred by PCGS. A tiny reverse planchet flaw, as struck, is seen in the field near the L of CAL; this adds to the historical charm of the piece without detracting from the overall appeal and quality.

**Maker:** Hershfield & Mitchell.

**Weight:** 0.24 grams.

**Diameter:** 10.0 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Tall, thin head of Liberty to left, coronet, triple hair bun, long lovelock curl on neck. Small H maker's mark close to truncation, distant from date below, date numerals large and nicely spaced, 13 six-pointed stars around, many irregularly spaced, star 6 very close to tip of coronet. Star punches worn, several appear as round blobs.

**Reverse:** AB. Four sets of triple leafs on each side of wreath, four pairs of berries each side, now with berries at juncture of wreath stems. Large numerals in fraction, 1 with serifs, 4 plain and unadorned (while similar, this is not reverse die AA with berries added at stems).

**PCGS Population:** 23; 5 finer (all MS-64).

*From New England Rare Coin Auctions' sale of January 1981, Lot 1487.*

**Choice Mint State 1871-H Round 25¢**

BG-859, Low Rarity-6  
Hershfield & Mitchell



- 343 1871-H Round 25¢. BG-859. Rarity-6-. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Bright yellow gold with olive highlights and some prooflike reflectivity. A sharp and pleasing example of a scarce variety, and definitely in delightful agreement with the assigned grade.

**Maker:** Hershfield & Mitchell.

**Weight:** 0.25 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.9 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Broader, shorter head of Liberty. Triple hair bun, long lock on neck. Small H maker's mark virtually touches truncation, small date follows curve of rim, 13 six-pointed stars around, mostly sharp and well-defined, star 6 opposite point of coronet.

**Reverse:** AD. Four sets of triple leafs on each side of wreath, 7 berries to each side, three pairs, plus a single berry each side at juncture of wreath stems. Leafs show textured centers, appearing nearly as corn kernels. DOLLAR and CAL in large, angular letters, 1 in fraction without serifs and much smaller than large, angular 4, also sans serifs. Raised die line upward from rim at 6:00 to the field beneath right foot of A in CAL. Die engraver's scribe lines are through fraction.

**PCGS Population:** 6; 5 finer (all MS-64).

*From New England Rare Coin Auctions' sale of July 1979, Lot 568.*



## Scarce 1871-H Round Quarter

BG-860, Rarity-6-



## 344 1871-H Round 25¢. BG-860. Rarity-6-. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A delightful coin that readily encroaches on the gem category. Yellow gold surfaces exhibit deeply mirrored fields and frosted motifs. Often seen weakly struck, but not so here. The present piece is sharp and bold in all areas, which serves to heighten the cameo effect. Definitely scarce and just as definitely choice!

**Maker:** Hershfield & Mitchell.

**Weight:** 0.24 grams.

**Diameter:** 10.1 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Tall, wide head of Liberty to left, large H maker's mark below, right upright touches truncation. Noticeable raised die line outward and upward from middle curl of trio on neck. Large date numerals with even tops, 13 six-pointed stars around, widely and mostly evenly spaced. Star 1 close to point of bust. A network of fine die cracks is seen at stars 5 through 7.

**Reverse:** AB. Same as BG-857.

**PCGS Population:** 8; 3 finer.

*Purchased from "Lens," August 23, 1994; Jack Rowe's handwriting is sometimes hard to decipher, hence the cryptic purchase source for this lot.*

## Rare 1871-H Round Liberty 25¢

BG-862, Rarity-6+



## 346 1871-H Round 25¢. BG-862. Rarity-6+. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A lustrous olive gold specimen with surfaces that closely resemble Type I (1849-54) federal gold dollars, that is, not prooflike but satiny. A sharp and appealing specimen of a fairly rare and definitely desirable issue, one that will no doubt go to a new cabinet after a serious round of bidding activity. Discovered by Jay Rowe in 1978. To date, PCGS has certified only seven examples of this variety; of those, the present piece is exceeded by only a single MS-66.

**Maker:** Hershfield & Mitchell.

**Weight:** 0.26 grams.

**Diameter:** 10.1 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-861.

**Reverse:** AC. Four sets of triple leaves on each side of wreath, 7 berries to each side, three pairs, plus a single berry each side at juncture of wreath stems. Leaves show textured centers, appearing nearly as corn kernels (very similar to reverse AD (BG-859) in this respect). Fraction and DOLLAR fairly high in wreath, fraction farther right, fraction numerals sans serifs. Uppermost inner berry nearly touches upper corner of D. Three vertical die cracks from rim to wreath at 6:00, other cracks from rim at 8:00 and 10:00.

**PCGS Population:** 3; 1 finer (MS-66).

*From Jess Peters' sale of December 3, 1977, Lot 44.*



## 345 1871-H Round 25¢. BG-861. Rarity-5-. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Highly lustrous yellow gold with a blush of olive and intense cameo contrast. A splendid example of the grade, a coin that could go a point or two higher on the grading scale and not raise any eyebrows! In short, simply lovely overall.

**Maker:** Hershfield & Mitchell.

**Weight:** 0.25 grams.

**Diameter:** 10.0 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Narrow head of Liberty, three hair buns plus curl on neck. Tiny H maker's mark close to truncation. Small date, first 1 tiny compared to other numerals, top of 8 filled. 13 six-pointed stars around, star 6 nearly rests on upper side of point of coronet.

**Reverse:** AB. Same as BG-857.

**PCGS Population:** 13; 1 finer (MS-65).

*Purchased from Fox Valley Coin Exchange, September 24, 1977.*



## 347 1871-H Round 25¢. BG-864. Rarity-5. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Deeply lustrous honey gold with bursts of rich violet toning at the rims. A bright and attractive coin, nicely struck at the centers with a touch of weakness at the obverse stars. Definitely choice for the grade. Liberty head device similar to other Hershfield & Mitchell issues.

**Maker:** Hershfield & Mitchell.

**Weight:** 0.24 grams.

**Diameter:** 10.0 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Head of Liberty to left, 13 stars around, smallest date of the Hershfield & Mitchell issues below bust, tiny H maker's mark embedded in truncation above. Star 6 nearly touches peak of coronet, stars 6 and 7 close, others widely and unevenly spaced.

**Reverse:** AE. Four pairs of triple leaves per side, 7 berries per side, three pairs plus a single at stems. Fraction numerals plain and unadorned, upright of 1 to left of upright of 4. Berries appear as split buds (ala Liberty Seated dime reverses, 1837-1859), berries opposite center of D and R in DOLLAR. Each L in denomination and CAL apparently from different punches.

**PCGS Population:** 10; 7 finer.

*Purchased from Tom's Coins, Littleton, MA, March 16, 1978.*



## Nearly Unique 1871-H Round 25¢

BG-864A, Rarity-8

One of Two Known



**348 1871-H Round 25¢. BG-864A. Rarity-8. Liberty Head. AU-55.** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Bright and lustrous yellow gold with definite olive highlights. Some obverse hairlines noted. One of the great rarities in the Jay Roe collection, this being one of just *two* examples of the issue currently known (the other example was offered by us in our sale of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection, May 1999:2613, and now no doubt resides in an advanced cabinet of California Small Denomination gold). The present piece, discovered by Walter Breen in March 1987 while cataloguing a collection for Pacific Coast Auction Galleries (Steinmetz, June 1987:1560), was later offered in a Heritage sale (July 1994:8089) in a PCGS holder graded AU-55. Jay Roe was the successful bidder on that lot; he later cracked the coin out of the holder to add to his collection. The present piece, formerly in a PCGS holder, didn't make the grade (no pun intended) this time around, and came back from that organization as "Cleaned or Whizzed." Regardless of the grade previously assigned, you, the bidder, are the ultimate judge here. Was it cleaned? Perhaps, though not recently enough to suggest it was at the hands of Jay Roe. Does it matter? Not an iota to a specialist who desires the rarest of the rare. Should you pass on this specimen in the hope that another finer piece will be found? Not if you ever intend to add an example of BG-864A to your collection! Interestingly enough, PCGS still reports an AU-55 example of this variety, most likely the coin offered here. To delete the listing, one must send in the original label!

**Maker:** Hershfield & Mitchell.

**Weight:** 0.24 grams.

**Diameter:** 10.0 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-864.

**Reverse:** AF. Four pairs of triple leafs per side, 7 berries per side, three pairs plus a single at stems. Leaves with textured centers. Fraction numerals sans serifs, upright of 1 to left of upright of 4. Berries appear as split buds (ala Liberty Seated dime reverses, 1837-1859), berries opposite center of D and R in DOLLAR. Each L in denomination and CAL apparently from different punches.

*Possibly from the Heritage sale of July 1994, Lot 8089, earlier from Pacific Coast Auction Galleries' sale of the Steinmetz collection, June 5, 1987, Lot 1560.*



**349 1871-H Round 25¢. BG-865. Rarity-5. Liberty Head. AU-58.** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Sharp and lustrous with rich rose toning. Lightly brushed long ago, otherwise most would call this specimen Mint State. A pleasing coin overall.

**Maker:** Hershfield & Mitchell.

**Weight:** 0.22 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.9 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Broad head of Liberty, largest of the maker's effigys. Tall 71 in date, first 1 and 8 spaced widely, other numerals more naturally spaced. 13 six-pointed stars around, point of coronet intrudes between stars 5 and 6, closer to 5. Severely elongated dentil between star 4 and 5, die crack from point of coronet to rim, another from rim to star 12.

**Reverse:** AF. Four pairs of triple leafs per side, 7 berries per side, three pairs plus a single at stems. Leaves with textured centers. Fraction numerals sans serifs, upright of 1 to left of upright of 4. Berries appear as split buds (ala Liberty Seated dime reverses, 1837-1859), berries opposite center of D and R in DOLLAR. Each L in denomination and CAL apparently from different punches.

**PCGS Population:** 5; 27 finer.

*From New England Rare Coin Auction's sale of November 15, 1980, Lot 1604; ex Art Kagin.*



**350 1864 Round 25¢. BG-866. Rarity-6-. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Bright and lustrous yellow gold with definite olive highlights. Head of Liberty reminiscent of Type I federal gold dollars. Formerly Rarity-7, now only minimally downgraded from that level. A pleasing example of a scarce variety, a coin that will fit nicely in any California Small Denomination gold cabinet.

**Maker:** Unknown Maker "G".

**Weight:** 0.39 grams.

**Diameter:** 9.5 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Head of Liberty (after the federal style found on Type I gold dollars) with 14 five-pointed stars around, crenelated (battlements) top to coronet, two hairbuns, one star points to each.

**Reverse:** Wreath of leaf triplets, seven per branch, possible berry at end of each branch. Heavy raised die lines, visible to the unaided eye, criss-cross the reverse in a helter-skelter manner, some vertical, some diagonal, some horizontal. 186 in date noticeably repunched. Fraction numerator farther right than denominator.

**PCGS Population:** 6; 3 finer.

In the new Breen-Gillio reference, author Bob Leonard notes the following regarding BG-866: "Imitation of BG-821, but extraordinarily heavy (almost 40% heavier than BG-821)-highly unlikely in a contemporary copy. Possibly an early Period III issue."

*Purchased from Rarcoa, February 8, 1983.*





**351 1870 Round 25¢. BG-867. Rarity-4. "Goofy" Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. One of the "Goofy Head" varieties. Highly lustrous yellow gold with lively olive highlights. Frosty motifs and bright, mirror fields account for an outstanding cameo contrast. One of the issues struck on gold-plated solid silver planchets. As choice as you'll locate at the MS-64 level! Tied with seven other examples for top honors at PCGS.

**Maker:** Unknown Maker "C".

**Weight:** 0.28 grams.

**Diameter:** 10.4 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** "Goofy Head" style, similar to BG-789. Some reflective areas around Liberty's neck and coronet from repolishing, 13 six-pointed stars around, most with spindly, attenuated points, also from polishing of the die. Star 13 attached to underside of truncation.

**Reverse:** Wreath of leaf triplets, five pairs per side, four pairs of berries per branch. Wreath area heavily polished; most of the leaves resemble unattached birds in flight more than they do leaves. Bow at bottom of wreath also fragmented. Traces of die rust at the date and denomination, spidery network of die cracks throughout much of the wreath and connecting to the rim in many places. Fraction, denomination, and date all boldly punched from crisp punches, all sharp and strong compared to other design features. Diagonal fraction bar.

**PCGS Population:** 8; none finer.

*Purchased from New England Rare Coin Galleries, February 1, 1978.*

## Gorgeous Gem Uncirculated 1872/1 Round 25¢

BG-868, Rarity-4+

Large Indian Head



**352 1872/1 Round 25¢. BG-868. Rarity-4+. Indian Head. MS-65 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Bright yellow gold with olive highlights. Deeply mirrored fields show the heavily frosted Indian motif to full advantage. Perhaps not a great rarity in the overall scheme of things, but it certainly is "rare" to find BG-868 so beautifully preserved (none have been graded finer by PCGS). In a word, *superb*.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Weight:** 0.18 grams.

**Diameter:** 10.4 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Large Indian head takes up much of the obverse field. 13 five-pointed stars around, date below. Stars arranged 6 left, 7 right, Indian's headdress separates the stars, upper three (of nine) feathers between stars 6 and 7. Traces of underlying 1 beneath 2.

**Reverse:** A. Wreath tips closed at top, 10 berries left, four pairs plus single inner berries at top and bottom, 11 berries right, five pairs plus a single at inner top. Period after CAL resembles a berry.

**PCGS Population:** 15; none finer.

Accompanied by a small slip of 19th century style paper with hand-written ink message that reads: "This 25 ct gold coin / was brought from California / by G.A. Barnard and / given to Bob Harris from / whom G.H. Waring bought it / for five 5 ct pieces in silver / Dec 25 1875" in seven lines on one side, the other side reading: "California / gold 1/4 dollar / Dec 25. 1875" in three lines. A neat little "go with" for this lot.

*Purchased from Joe Flynn, November 17, 1977.*



**353 1872/1 Round 25¢. BG-869. Rarity-4-. Indian Head. MS-65 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A highly lustrous cameo specimen, yellow gold with distinctive olive highlights. A splendid gem example of a moderately scarce Indian Head variety.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Weight:** 0.17 grams.

**Diameter:** 10.3 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-868.

**Reverse:** A. Same as BG-868, here reworked. Now with new shape to several leaves, more berries added, some letters differing as well. Shattered and with several cuds in the wreath details; this die could not have lasted long beyond the original strikings made from it.

**PCGS Population:** 10; 1 finer.

*Purchased from New England Rare Coin Galleries, February 1, 1978.*





**354 1872/1 Round 25¢. BG-870. Rarity-3. Indian Head. MS-65 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Lustrous yellow gold with frosty motifs and mirror fields. An enticing gem with lively olive highlights. On December 30, 1903, Virgil Brand purchased an example of BG-870 (though not designated as such at that time) from S.H. & H. Chapman.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Weight:** 0.16 grams.

**Diameter:** 10.2 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-868.

**Reverse:** B. Berries 12 left, 10 right; five outer, seven inner berries on viewer's left branch, six outer, four inner berries on right branch. Tops of wreath end in double leaves. DOLLAR and CAL evenly spaced, period after CAL. Die cracked from bow upward through L in CAL and second L of denomination to end of fraction bar, there splitting from bar upward to wreath at 11:00 and 1:00, also downward to berry near top of R in DOLLAR.

**Die State I:** Obverse crack joins 2 of date to rim.

**PCGS Population:** 11; none finer.

*Purchased from Eldrid Ringen, Norway, July 13, 1982.*

**Choice Uncirculated 1873 Indian Head 25¢**

**BG-871, High Rarity-6**



**355 1873 Round 25¢. BG-871. Rarity-6+. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Medium yellow gold with some prooflike reflectivity and definite olive toning. A nicer example than is typically encountered of this rare and elusive issue. PCGS has graded only 11 examples of this variety.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Weight:** 0.15 grams.

**Diameter:** 10.2 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Large Indian head, 13 five-pointed stars around, tip of bust parallel to and nearly touching upper serif of 1 in date, flat-topped 3 in date. Tip of third highest feather in headdress nearly touches point of star 7. Die cracks from rim at 4:00 and 10:30 (though not noticeable on this specimen due to encapsulation).

**Reverse:** B. Same as BG-870.

**PCGS Population:** 4; 1 finer.

*Purchased from H.I.M., July 31, 1983.*



**356 1873 Round 25¢. BG-872. Rarity-5. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Lustrous yellow gold with orange and olive highlights in the design elements. A few faint "ghosts" seen on both sides. A pleasing example of a moderately scarce Indian Head issue.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Weight:** 0.14 grams.

**Diameter:** 10.2 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-871.

**Reverse:** C. Berries 13 left, 13 right, six pairs plus a single at top on each side. Upper left leaf turns dramatically upward. Fraction bar thin and tapered at viewer's left end, thicker at right. NO period after CAL.

**PCGS Population:** 16; 2 finer.

*Purchased from David Doering, April 17, 1978.*



**357 1873 Round 25¢. BG-874. Rarity-6+. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Bright and lustrous yellow gold with highly reflective fields and frosty motifs forming a lovely cameo contrast. Olive highlights. An altogether pleasing example of a very scarce issue, one that is finer than most examples of the variety that have "come down the pike" in recent memory. Discovered by David or Susan Doering, 1968-80, and first published by them in *California Fractional Gold* (1980).

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Weight:** 0.14 grams.

**Diameter:** 10.2 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-871.

**Reverse:** C. Same as BG-872.

**PCGS Population:** 8; 2 finer.

*Purchased from Kurt Krueger, March 30, 1982.*





**358 1874 Round 25¢. BG-875. Rarity-4+. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A lustrous beauty. Prooflike yellow gold with strong cameo contrast and honey gold highlights on the Indian's portrait. Moderately scarce in all grades, much scarcer overall in the present grade. Emery May Holden purchased an example of the variety from Thomas L. Elder in 1909; sold by us as Norweb:1085, October 1987.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Weight:** 0.15 grams.

**Diameter:** 10.2 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Large Indian head, 13 five-pointed stars around, stars 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13 touch dentils, star 5 solidly embedded in dentils. Low 7 in date.

**Reverse:** C. Same as BG-872.

**PCGS Population:** 24; 4 finer.

*From Harmer-Rooke's sale of February 1978, Lot 63.*



**359 1874 Round 25¢. BG-876. Rarity-4-. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A blazing, lustrous beauty, with satiny honey gold motifs boldly framed by deep mirror fields. Even a cursory glance imparts a feeling of *quality* to the viewer of the present coin; careful scrutiny bolsters that first impression. Lovely by all accounts.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Weight:** 0.16 grams.

**Diameter:** 10.2 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-875, here repolished, truncation no longer joined to hair at shoulder.

**Reverse:** B. Same as BG-870, R of DOLLAR weak, die cracks even more prominent.

**PCGS Population:** 36; 9 finer.

*From Kagin's sale of May 1978, Lot 1229.*



**360 1875/3 Round 25¢. BG-877. Rarity-5+. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A splendid coin for the grade. Deep olive gold mirrors support satiny, frosty motifs. Some tiny "ghosts" present on both sides. Definitely choice by any standards, and scarce and desirable in the present grade.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Weight:** 0.15 grams.

**Diameter:** 10.2 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Large Indian head with 13 five-pointed stars around, stars apparently composed of a cross-hatch of tiny lines, top feathers of headdress separate stars 6 and 7. Spindly "hand-written" date style, 5 large and over another numeral (probably a 3), 1 with grotesque serif that descends at an angle nearly the length of the upright, top of 1 attached to tip of bust above.

**Reverse:** D. Both top leaves turn upward. Berries 12 left, 12 right, in pairs, berries opposite center of D and another opposite center of R in DOLLAR. No period after CAL.

**Die State II:** Dies now polished to remove clash marks, Indian's mouth open and a hollow around eye.

**PCGS Population:** 8; 1 finer.

*Purchased from Bill McAllen, January 22, 1982.*



**361 1875 Round 25¢. BG-878. Rarity-3. Indian Head. MS-65 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State I).

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 11; 1 finer (MS-66).



**362 1875 Round 25¢. BG-878. Rarity-3. Indian Head. MS-63 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State II).

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 49; 56 finer.



**363 1876 Round 25¢. BG-879. Rarity-4. Indian Head. MS-65 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. One of the top ten examples certified by PCGS.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 9; 1 finer.





**364 1876 Round 25¢. BG-880. Rarity-6-. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 9; 2 finer.



**367 1878/6 Round 25¢. BG-883. Rarity-4+. Indian Head. MS-63 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-883.

**PCGS Population:** 17; 26 finer.



**365 1876 Round 25¢. BG-881. Rarity-5. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-880.

**PCGS Population:** 9; 5 finer.



**368 1878/6 Round 25¢. BG-884. Rarity-5+. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. One of the top ten examples certified by PCGS.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-882.

**PCGS Population:** 6; 3 finer.

**Important 1876 BG-882 Round 25c**  
**Tied for Finest Known**



**366 1876 Round 25¢. BG-882. Rarity-7. Indian Head. MS-65 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for Doering and the second edition of Breen-Gillio. PCGS has certified only eight examples of this variety, this being tied with three others at the MS-65 level (finest known). Toned.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 4; none finer.

*From Superior's sale of the Lawson collection, June 4, 1985, Lot 1945.  
Ex Doering.*



**369 1880/76 Round 25¢. BG-885. Rarity-3. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 48; 18 finer.



**370 1881 Round 25¢. BG-886. Rarity-5+. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 7; 7 finer.





**371 1881 Round 25¢. BG-887. Rarity-3. Indian Head. MS-65 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 20; 2 finer (both MS-66).



**375 1852 Round 25¢. BG-891. Rarity-5-. Indian Head. MS-65 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. One of the top ten examples certified by PCGS.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 8; 1 finer.



**372 1874 Round 25¢. BG-888. Rarity-5-. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 12; 10 finer.



**376 1852 Round 25¢. BG-891. Rarity-5-. Indian Head. Love token holed.**

**EF-40.** A cute little Love Token, engraved "Baby" on the reverse, then holed at the top for suspension. Lovely pink and green colors. A scarce variety that will have broader market interest than the normal Love Token with specific initials (aren't all of our female loved ones "Baby")?

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.



**373 1868 Round 25¢. BG-889. Rarity-6+. Indian Head. MS-63 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 3; 8 finer.



**374 1868 Round 25¢. BG-890. Rarity-5+. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Variety re-discovered in modern times by Joy Rowe in 1978 (confirmed that same year by Kenneth Lee), although this variety existed as early as 1908!

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 9; 3 finer.

**Extremely Rare "Young Head" BG-892  
Quarter Dollar**



**377 1882 Round 25¢. BG-892. Rarity-7+. Indian Head. MS-62 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. This is the finest of all four examples of this variety graded by PCGS, exceeding the next finest by a single point.

**Maker:** Nast, Greenzweig & Co.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 1; none finer.





- 378 1859 Octagonal 50¢. BG-901. Rarity-6+. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State II). One of the top ten examples of this variety certified by PCGS (significant because they have graded only 11 BG-901's)!

Maker: Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

Edge: Crudely reeded.

PCGS Population: 5; 1 finer.



- 379 1859 Octagonal 50¢. BG-902. Rarity-4-. Liberty Head. MS-65 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A fabulous coin, tied with six others for "Finest Known" honors at PCGS.

Maker: Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

Edge: Crudely reeded (before striking).

Reverse: Same as BG-901.

PCGS Population: 7; none finer.



- 380 1866 Octagonal 50¢. BG-903. Rarity-5+. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

Maker: Frontier & Co.

Edge: Crudely reeded.

Obverse: Same as BG-902.

PCGS Population: 8; 4 finer.

## Semi-Unique 1866 BG-904 Octagonal 50c First-ever Public Offering



- 381 1866 Octagonal 50¢. BG-904. Unique? Liberty Head. MS-65 (PCGS).

A wondrous rarity from the Rowe collection and, as can be seen by the grade assigned by PCGS, one of the nicest quality coins, as well. In addition, this is the plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Variety discovered by the Doerings sometime before the 1980 publication of their *California Fractional Gold*. PCGS has graded only two examples of this variety: one in MS-63 and the Gem offered here. We are confident that we will be listing this among the highest-priced coins in after-sale reckonings.

The obverse of this variety was used as early as 1859 and as late as 1871 to create a number of very scarce to very rare varieties.

Maker: Frontier & Co.

Edge: Crudely reeded.

Obverse: Same as BG-902.

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.

*Purchased from Doering on July 12, 1984.*



- 382 1867 Octagonal 50¢. BG-905. Rarity-5-. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

Maker: Frontier & Co.

Edge: Plain, with just a couple of faint reedings.

Obverse: Same as BG-902.

PCGS Population: 10; 11 finer.



- 383 1868 Octagonal 50¢. BG-906. Rarity-4+. Liberty Head. MS-65 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

Maker: Frontier & Co.

Edge: Plain.

Obverse: Same as BG-902.

PCGS Population: 11; 4 finer.





384 1869 Octagonal 50¢. BG-907. Rarity-5-. Liberty Head. MS-65 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

Maker: Frontier & Co.  
Edge: Weakly reeded.  
Obverse: Same as BG-902.  
PCGS Population: 10; 7 finer.



388 1871 Octagonal 50¢. BG-911. Rarity-4. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

Maker: Frontier & Co.  
Edge: Plain.  
Reverse: Same as BG-910.  
PCGS Population: 17; 14 finer.



385 1870 Octagonal 50¢. BG-908. Rarity-5. Liberty Head. MS-65 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

Maker: Frontier & Co.  
Edge: Plain.  
Obverse: Same as BG-902.  
PCGS Population: 9; 5 finer (all in MS-66).



389 1871 Octagonal 50¢. BG-912. Rarity-3. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

Maker: Frontier & Co.  
Edge: Reeded.  
Reverse: Same as BG-910.  
PCGS Population: 25; 4 finer.



386 1870 Octagonal 50¢. BG-909. Rarity-6. Liberty Head. MS-65 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Tied with two others as the finest examples graded by PCGS.

Maker: Frontier & Co.  
Edge: Plain.  
Obverse: Same as BG-902.  
PCGS Population: 3; none finer.



390 1872 Octagonal 50¢. BG-913. Rarity-4. Liberty Head. MS-65 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

Maker: Frontier & Bellemere.  
Edge: Plain.  
PCGS Population: 14; 2 finer (both MS-66).



387 1871 Octagonal 50¢. BG-910. Rarity-5+. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

Maker: Frontier & Co.  
Edge: Crudely reeded.  
Obverse: Same as BG-902.  
PCGS Population: 4; 10 finer.



391 1872/1 Octagonal 50¢. BG-914. Rarity-4. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

Maker: Frontier & Bellemere.  
Edge: Weakly reeded.  
Reverse: Same as BG-913.  
PCGS Population: 18; 7 finer.





392 1873 Octagonal 50c. BG-915. Rarity-4-. Liberty Head. MS-65 (PCGS).

Maker: Frontier & Bellemere.

Edge: Plain.

Reverse: Same as BG-913.

PCGS Population: 21; 2 finer (both MS-66).



396 1864-G Octagonal 50c. BG-918. Rarity-4. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS).

Maker: Robert B. Gray & Co.

Edge: Plain.

Reverse: Same as BG-917A.

PCGS Population: 6; 41 finer.



393 1856-N Octagonal 50c. BG-916. Rarity-6. Liberty Head. MS-65 (PCGS).

Maker: Robert B. Gray & Co.

Edge: Weakly reeded.



397 1869-G Octagonal 50c. BG-919. Rarity-4. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS). One of the top ten examples certified by PCGS.

Maker: Robert B. Gray & Co.

Edge: Reeded.

PCGS Population: 7; 2 finer.



394 1864-G Octagonal 50c. BG-917. Rarity-4. Liberty Head. MS-61 (PCGS). This variety has been around since 1877, when Jules Fonrobert owned one.

Maker: Robert B. Gray & Co.

Edge: Plain.

Obverse: Same as BG-916.

Die State III: Large cud at 6th star.

PCGS Population: 9; 22 finer.



398 1869-G Octagonal 50c. BG-919. Rarity-4. Liberty Head. Net VG-10 (PCGS). Identifiable as to variety thanks to the unique obverse, an important consideration because the reverse was ground down completely, then engraved with an ornate "EF" or "FE." Holed at the top for suspension as a piece of jewelry. Another of Mr. Rowe's strange and unusual delicacies.

Maker: Robert B. Gray & Co.

Edge: Reeded edge, although some facets are weak because of the grade.



395 1864-G Octagonal 50c. BG-917. Rarity-4. Liberty Head. EF-40. A Love token, with the name "Lydia Reeve Goodwin" engraved in fine, cursive writing in the field around Liberty's head. Attractive, coppery toning. Struck from an early state of the dies, with no break in the bridge of Liberty's nose.

Maker: Robert B. Gray & Co.

Edge: Plain.





- 399 1870-G Octagonal 50¢. BG-920. Rarity-4+. Liberty Head. MS-62. The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A glittering prooflike example, with heads and stars floating in a sea of reflectivity. Extremely minor hairlines on both sides fail to reduce the overwhelming brilliance. This variety features an unusual, apostrophe shaped defect between CAL and GOLD on the reverse. The "apostrophe" appears to be a misplaced period with a small die chip on the bottom right edge!

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Edge:** An interesting combination of reeded, plain, and weakly reeded facets.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-919.



- 400 1870-G Octagonal 50¢. BG-921. Rarity-5-. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded (reeded after striking, bending flan).

**PCGS Population:** 15; 2 finer.



- 401 1870-G Octagonal 50¢. BG-922. Rarity-3. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Robert Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded (after striking).

**PCGS Population:** 33; 28 finer.



- 402 1871-G Octagonal 50¢. BG-923. Rarity-5. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Robert Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded (after striking).

**PCGS Population:** 4; 23 finer.



- 403 1871-G Octagonal 50¢. BG-924. Rarity-3. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Robert Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**PCGS Population:** 35; 18 finer.



- 404 1871-G Octagonal 50¢. BG-925. Rarity-4+. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Robert Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-924.

**PCGS Population:** 13; 7 finer.



- 405 1871-L Octagonal 50¢. BG-926. Rarity-6+. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. PCGS has graded only 11 examples of this variety.

**Maker:** California Jewelry Co.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**PCGS Population:** 4; 4 finer.



- 406 1871-L Octagonal 50¢. BG-927. Rarity-5-. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State I). One of the top ten examples of this variety graded by PCGS. Variety discovered by A.C. Nygren sometime prior to 1924.

**Maker:** California Jewelry Co.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-926.

**PCGS Population:** 6; 4 finer.





407 1873 Octagonal 50¢. BG-928. Rarity-6-. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

Maker: Herman J. Brand.

Edge: Plain.

PCGS Population: 4; 9 finer.



408 1874 Octagonal 50¢. BG-929. Rarity-6+. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Six examples of this variety have been graded by PCGS, all in Mint State.

Maker: Herman J. Brand.

Edge: Plain.

Reverse: Same as BG-928.

PCGS Population: 2; 3 finer (all MS-63).



409 1874 Octagonal 50¢. BG-930. Rarity-5. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State II).

Maker: Herman J. Brand.

Edge: Plain.

Die State II: Die defect covers both the eyes and nose, completing the "Blindfolded Liberty" effect.

PCGS Population: 7; 6 finer (all MS-64).



410 1874 Octagonal 50¢. BG-930. Rarity-5. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State I of the dies).

Maker: Herman J. Brand.

Edge: Plain.

PCGS Population: 7; 13 finer.

## Unique 1875/5 BG-930A Half Dollar

First-ever Public Offering

Plate Coin for the Second Edition of Breen-Gillio



411 1875/5 Octagonal 50¢. BG-930A. Unique. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS). A fabulous rarity in the small denomination California gold series, known today by this singular example. Tied to BG-931 because of a shared reverse and one of the very rare "fraction bar" varieties made by Herman Brand (all of which are at least Rarity-5 or better). Although acquired by Jay on 1981, this was not recognized as a new variety until 1983! While not as distinctive a variety as the "Peacock" reverse or the "Defiant Eagle," this rarity will join those as a centerpiece of any collection. Keep in mind that this piece has never before been offered for public sale and, once sold, it may not be available again for years to come, if then.

Maker: Herman J. Brand.

Edge: Plain.

Reverse: Same as BG-930.

Purchased from Barry Chovinard on January 3, 1981.

## Interesting and Rare 1875/4 Overdate Half Dollar

Plate Coin for the Second Edition of Breen-Gillio



412 1875 Octagonal 50¢. BG-931. Rarity-7-. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS). An extremely rare variety, of which only six examples have been graded by PCGS. Of those, this ranks in the top four, exceeded only by one MS-64 and one MS-65. Prooflike.

Maker: Herman J. Brand.

Edge: Plain.

Reverse: Same as BG-930.

PCGS Population: 2; 2 finer.

From New England Rare Coin Galleries' FUN sale, January 9, 1981, Lot 1532.





- 413 1876 Octagonal 50¢. BG-932. Rarity-4+. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.  
**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.  
**Edge:** Plain.  
**PCGS Population:** 9; 3 finer.

### Unique 1876 "Baby Head" BG-932A Plate Coin for the Second Edition of Breen-Gillio



- 414 1876 Octagonal 25¢. BG-932A. Unique. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS). This unique variety was discovered by Harry Bass in 1972 and sold by us as part of his collection in 1999, making this only the second public appearance of this variety. Once called BG-932X, this variety features a "Baby Head" of Liberty designed by Herman Brand; the reverse is shared with BG-932, hence the numerical closeness. The unique status of this piece is sure to be appreciated by some specialist and we suspect that it will disappear from the market for many years to come. If you are working on a complete set of small denomination California gold, this is a "must-have" piece – no set can be complete without this unique rarity.  
**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.  
**Edge:** Plain.  
**Reverse:** Same as BG-932.  
**PCGS Population:** 1, the only example graded by PCGS.  
*From our sale of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Collection, May 9, 1999, Lot 2662. Earlier from the Goliad Corporation on August 8, 1972.*



- 415 1875 Octagonal 50¢. BG-933. Rarity-5. Indian Head. MS-64. The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A gem example of this date, downgraded because of some light scratches on the eleventh through thirteenth stars. The "Bed of Spikes" variety, so named because of the long, tooth-like denticles that surround the obverse. Stars flat, with "ghosts" in the wreath on the opposite side of the coin (there simply was not enough metal to fill the recessed areas of the dies). The obverse die of this variety was later used to make a non-denominational charm, following the arrest of a competing manufacturer Christopher Mohrig!  
 Such was the intrigue of the period. The manufacturers knew their activities were testing the limits of the law, but as long as they were left unmolested, they continued their operations unabated. Like cockroaches, they scattered when the light was turned on (so to speak), only to re-emerge when the heat was off. Leonard et al recount the efforts of James J. Brooks of the U.S. Secret Service to shut down the manufacturers, a long and arduous process that finally achieved success in 1882. Even then, old dies were married to token reverses to circumvent the law and continue the production of these gold "bangles."

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.  
**Edge:** Plain.  
**Reverse:** Same as BG-932.



- 416 1875 Octagonal 50¢. BG-934. Rarity-4. Indian Head. AU-58 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.  
**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.  
**Edge:** Plain.  
**Reverse:** Same as BG-932.  
**PCGS Population:** 8; 45 finer.



- 417 1876/6876 Octagonal 50¢. BG-935. Rarity-5. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. One of the top seven examples graded by PCGS, exceeded only by a single MS-65.  
**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.  
**Edge:** Plain.  
**Reverse:** Same as BG-932.  
**PCGS Population:** 6; 1 finer (MS-65).





- 418 1870 Octagonal 50¢. BG-936. Rarity-5-. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. One of the top six examples graded by PCGS, exceeded by a single MS-64.

**Maker:** Unknown Maker "C".

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**PCGS Population:** 5; 1 finer (MS-64).



- 419 1872/1 Octagonal 50¢. BG-937. Rarity-4+. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**PCGS Population:** 21; 4 finer.



- 420 1872 Octagonal 50¢. BG-938. Rarity-6-. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. PCGS has graded only five coins at this level, with only one finer (a single MS-65). Variety discovered by Robert H. Burnie sometime between 1952 and 1955.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-937.

**PCGS Population:** 5; 1 finer.



- 421 1872 Octagonal 50¢. BG-939. Rarity-5-. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio and one of the finest examples of the variety. Bright honey gold with frosty motifs and deep mirror fields. Definitely a "looker" for the grade, a small coin with a large quotient of eye appeal and lustre. Several obverse "ghosts" noted among the stars. A scarce variety, especially when found so nice. California Small Denomination gold pieces of this quality seldom go begging where bidding activity is concerned.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Weight:** 0.22 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.0 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Indian head to left, 13 five-pointed stars around, sixth star attached to tip of first feather, several stars repunched. Faint crack from rim to fourth star. "Hand-written" date with crude, thin, incomplete numerals below bust.

**Reverse:** Open wreath, five pairs of berries left, five pairs right, berry near foot of R in DOLLAR. Large fraction with bar at top of wreath, 1 with elongated upper serif, 2 with distinctly curled base, DOLLAR / CAL. below. D repunched, OLLAR progressively lower to right, L in CAL smaller than CA.

**PCGS Population:** 14; 1 finer.

*Purchased from Christine Borzarska, May 31, 1978.*

### Plate Coin for the Second Edition of Breen-Gillio



- 422 1872 Octagonal 50¢. BG-940. Rarity-4. Indian Head. MS-63 (PCGS). Deep yellow gold with olive highlights. Lightly frosted motifs and mirror fields. Some "ghosts" are seen in the reverse wreath. Choice in all respects, especially so for the assigned grade.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Weight:** 0.23 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.0 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-939, here with much heavier crack at fourth star.

**Reverse:** Open wreath, five pairs of berries left, one pair of greatly mismatched size, five pairs right, plus a tiny berry inside wreath near bow. Large fraction with bar at top of wreath, 1 with elongated upper serif, 2 with flat base, DOLLAR / CAL. below, all letters and numerals deeply punched and well-formed, A of CAL repunched. Faint cracks from rim at 7:30 and 10:30.

**PCGS Population:** 15; 27 finer.

*From Kagin's sale of May 1978, Lot 1246.*





- 423 1873/2 Octagonal 50c. BG-941. Rarity-5+. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Deep honey gold with strong underlying lustre on frosty motifs and mirror fields. A pleasing coin for the assigned grade, and one of the top ten examples of this variety graded by PCGS.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Weight:** 0.29 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.0 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-939, here with much heavier crack at fourth star, and with a light crack at first star. Date re-engraved by maker.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-940, cracks heavier, small berry at right of how enlarged by maker.

**PCGS Population:** 8; 2 finer.

*From our sale of the University of Rochester Collection, June 1980, Lot 4925.*



- 424 1873 Octagonal 50c. BG-942. Rarity-5-. Indian Head. MS-63 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Rich honey gold with warm orange highlights and prooflike cameo contrast. A sharp and impressive example of a moderately scarce variety, and a pleasing coin in all respects. Reverse "ghosts" are seen in the wreath, as virtually always found for this variety.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Weight:** 0.23 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.0 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Indian head to left, 13 five-pointed stars around, stars 2, 6, 7, 11, 12, and 13 repunched. Date below bust, flat-topped 3, period after date. Stars and numerals evenly and nicely spaced.

**Reverse:** Open wreath, 13 berries left, 14 berries right, single leaf each side at top. Fraction at top, DOLLAR / CAL below, all numerals and letters nicely formed and fairly evenly spaced, leaf near foot of R in DOLLAR.

**PCGS Population:** 16; 10 finer.

*Purchased from Bill Rudich, November 17, 1981.*

### Plate Coin for the Second Edition of Breen-Gillio



- 425 1874/3 Octagonal 50c. BG-943. Rarity-4+. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS). Dazzling, beautiful deep yellow gold surfaces. A delightful cameo example of the variety with frosty motifs and mirror fields, all with a touch of lively olive iridescence. A trifle weak at the reverse center, as frequently seen for the variety. A truly lovely coin, one that could easily be called a *finer* grade without much nay-saying.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Weight:** 0.27 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.1 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Indian head to left, 13 five-pointed stars around, several stars and date numerals impaled on dentils. Date below bust, 4 clearly over a flat-topped 3. Stars and numerals evenly and nicely spaced.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-942, here repolished, leaves in wreath tenuous in places.

**PCGS Population:** 13; 2 finer (both MS-65).

*Purchased from California National Coin Exchange, July 24, 1987.*

### Lovely 1874 Indian Octagonal 50c BG-944, Rarity-5

#### Plate Coin for the Second Edition of Breen-Gillio



- 426 1874 Octagonal 50c. BG-944. Rarity-5. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).

Superb in overall appearance! An impressive specimen with richly frosted motifs and deeply mirrored fields that form a strong cameo contrast. Attractive honey gold with deeper highlights. Some "ghosts" are seen haunting the reverse wreath, but don't let them cloud your bidding judgement. Tied with seven other examples as "Finest Graded" at PCGS. Variety discovered by Kenneth Lee sometime between 1955 and 1970.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Weight:** 0.22 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.1 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Indian head to left, 13 five-pointed stars around, innermost point of star 1 shows a spike into field, star 6 high and impaled on dentils, star 9 joined to feather by die line. Date below bust, 18 higher than 74, 4 tall and spindly, tops of 1 and 4 nearly touch Indian's portrait above.

**Reverse:** Open wreath, berries 12 left, 10 right. Fraction high at top of wreath, berry opposite left top of 1, DOLLAR / CAL below, leaf nearly touches right leg of R, "thorn" connected to base of L in CAL.

**PCGS Population:** 8; none finer.

*From Superior's sale of September 1987, Lot 4622.*



**Extremely Rare 1874 Octagonal Indian Head 50¢**

BG-944A, Rarity-8

The Discovery Specimen

Finest Known Example



**427 1874 Octagonal 50¢. BG-944A, formerly BG-944W. Rarity-8. Indian Head. MS-63 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Warm yellow gold with deeper honey gold tones. A prized rarity, and definitely one of the outstanding highlights of the Jay Roe Collection. First discovered by Rick Montgomery at PCGS in 1994, which prompted an article on the new variety that appeared in *Coin World* soon thereafter (August 15, 1994, pg. 3). One of perhaps just *three* examples all told to have come to light in the nine years since this *discovery piece* first became known. PCGS reports three examples of the variety, of which this one is tied for top honors. The present coin is the finest of the known specimens and is doubly as important as such. We suspect beginners and old-timers alike will actively pursue the current piece when the bidding activity commences, as the present coin represents a splendid way to begin a collection as well as an impressive way to draw a long-established world-class collection a step nearer to completion!

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.**Weight:** 0.23 grams.**Diameter:** 11.1 mm.**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Smaller Indian head (for quarter dollar?) to left, 13 five-pointed stars around, mostly swollen and blob-like, stars 3, 8, 9, and 10 noticeably repunched (star 10 obviously over a hollow-center star), star 6 attached to first feather by die line, star 7 nearly touches feather. Date distant from bust above, 1, 7, and 4 touch dentils, 7 and 4 connected by die line, 4 very crude. Raised outline to Indian's profile and eyes, raised die lines (resembling veins or arteries) on portrait.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-944, here repolished, berry stems broken.**PCGS Population:** 2; none finer.*Purchased from Stephen Richter, February 11, 1997.*

**428 1874/3 Octagonal 50¢. BG-945. Rarity-4+. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Deep orange gold with plenty of lustre and delightful cameo contrast. A lovely specimen of a popular overdate variety, one that is scarce enough to be challenging, but not prohibitively so.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.**Weight:** 0.21 grams.**Diameter:** 11.1 mm.**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Large Indian head to left, 13 five-pointed stars around, date below. Date numerals crude, "hand-written" style, 8 and 7 widely spaced, 7 low, die crack from rim upward through right side of 8, then to hair above, large and crude crosslet 4 over plain underlying 3. Indian's profile heavily polished, lips merely two tiny dots in field.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-944, here repolished.**PCGS Population:** 12; 1 finer (MS-65).*From Kagin's sale of October 1977, Lot 1166.***Gem Mint State 1875 Indian 50¢**

Hand-Written Date Style

BG-946, Rarity-4



**429 1875 Octagonal 50¢. BG-946. Rarity-4. Indian Head. MS-65 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A lovely gem of the finest order, one of the top five examples certified by PCGS (exceeded by a single MS-66). Frosted motifs and mirrored fields form a pleasing deep golden cameo contrast. The lustre is unremitting in its brilliance, and the overall appeal is equally as strong. You won't find a better gem where aesthetic and physical appeal are concerned.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.**Weight:** 0.27 grams.**Diameter:** 11.1 mm.**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Large Indian head to left, 13 five-pointed stars around, date below. Heavy horizontal die line across Indian's cheek culminates in weak spot behind ear, as always seen for the variety. Date numerals crude, "hand-written" style, all widely spaced, 1 with long upper serif, 8 open at bottom and connected to rim by heavy die crack, 7 thin and higher at bottom, 5 spindly and tenuous with distinctly curled top.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-944, here repolished.

**Die State II:** Base of 8 in date open, numeral attached to rim by heavy die crack. Other cracks from rim at 7:00 and 8:45.

**PCGS Population:** 4; 1 finer (MS-66).*From Kagin's sale of May 1978, Lot 1249.*



**Very Rare 1875 Octagonal Indian 50¢**

BG-947, High Rarity-7

Plate Coin for the Second Edition of Breen-Gillio

**430 1875 Octagonal 50¢. BG-947. Rarity-7+. Indian Head. Large Date. MS-64 (PCGS).**

A splendidly beautiful example of a splendidly rare variety. Frosty yellow gold motifs contrast nicely with bright and deep mirror fields. One of just five examples of the variety enumerated by Bob Leonard in the new reference, though that list may contain some duplication; sometimes illustrations or lacking or are inadequate for positive plate matching. Definitely a *Condition Census* example of the variety by virtue of its choice Mint State grade; based on the new information, the present specimen is probably the *finest known* example of this rarity!

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.**Weight:** 0.25 grams.**Diameter:** 11.1 mm.**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Large Indian head to left, 13 five-pointed stars around, stars 5, 6, and 7 widely spaced, stars 8 and 9 joined by die line. Date below bust, numerals bold, nicely spaced and formed, "fancy" 5 slightly smaller than other numerals.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-944, here repolished.**PCGS Population:** 1; none finer.*Purchased from David Doering, July 12, 1984.***431 1875 Octagonal 50¢. BG-948. Rarity-5+. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Bright and lustrous yellow gold with some deeper highlights. Heavily frosted motifs contrast grandly with reflective mirror fields. A delightful prooflike specimen that comes oh-so-close to gem quality, a point with which you will probably concur once you have had a chance to examine the present coin. Moderately rare overall, and highly desirable in the present grade. Certainly, it is among the top four examples graded by PCGS.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.**Weight:** 0.24 grams.**Diameter:** 11.1 mm.**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Large Indian head to left, 13 five-pointed stars around, many stars show repunching, long spine from star 12 nearly touches star 13. Date below bust, numerals nicely spaced, 7 thin and tenuous, "fancy" 5 slightly smaller than other numerals, all numerals touch dentils below. Several small cracks present, most prominent among them a crack from the rim upward across the 1, then to the neck above. Additionally, a die line gives the impression of doubling at the point of the Indian's bust.

**Reverse:** Open wreath, 10 berries left, 10 right, lowest inner right berry, on long stem, resembles a period after L in CAL. Fraction high in wreath, DOLLAR / CAL. below. Multiple die cracks in the wreath and throughout the fields.

**PCGS Population:** 2; 2 finer (both MS-65).*Purchased from New England Rare Coin Gallery, May 27, 1977.*

**432 1876 Octagonal 50¢. BG-949. Rarity-4. Indian Head. Small Date. MS-64 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A lovely specimen that readily approaches gem quality. Frosty motifs and yellow gold fields form a nice cameo contrast, all offset by a splash of bright pale violet iridescence. Sharp and appealing, and we venture to say that you probably won't find a finer example of the variety and grade combination no matter how long you search!

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.**Weight:** 0.24 grams.**Diameter:** 11.2 mm.**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Indian head to left, 13 five-pointed stars around, three stars above Indian small and spindly in comparison to the others, stars 4 and 5 mis-shapen. Small date numerals nicely spaced, upper serif of 1 long and thin, 1 rests on dentil below.

**Reverse:** A. Open wreath, 13 berries left, 14 right, terminal leaves in wreath curl distinctly upward and backward. Fraction high in wreath, DOLLAR central, CAL fairly low, leaves joined to top and bottom serif on back of D, leaves nearly touch top right of R and lower left of L.

**PCGS Population:** 21; 5 finer (all MS-65).*Purchased from New England Rare Coin Gallery, May 24, 1978.***Rare 1876 Octagonal Indian 50¢**

BG-950, Rarity-7

Doering and Breen-Gillio Plate Coin

**433 1876 Octagonal 50¢. BG-950. Rarity-7. Indian Head. Large Date. MS-63 (PCGS).**

Frosty olive gold with strong lustre and modest prooflike reflectivity. A rare and important issue, a variety with *fewer than 10* specimens known in all grades, the present piece certainly in the upper echelon where grade is concerned. In fact, this is one of the few varieties that was not represented in our landmark sale of the *Texas Collection*, and is highly desirable as such. Also of note, the present coin served as the Doering plate coin as well as the plate coin in both editions of the Breen-Gillio reference. Talk about good credentials. Bid now and this well-known and highly photogenic rarity will take its rightful place in your cabinet of California Small Denomination gold coins.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.**Weight:** 0.17 grams.**Diameter:** 11.1 mm.**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Indian head to left, 13 five-pointed stars around, three stars above Indian in straight line, central of those three points to feather, star 6 impaled on dentils. Raised horizontal die line across Indian's cheek, below the ear and into the hair and feathers, another from the eyebrow through the hair and tiara. Large and stately date numerals nicely spaced, 8 shorter than other numerals, 7 considerably taller and nearly touching hair above.

**Reverse:** A.**PCGS Population:** 3; 1 finer (MS-65).*From Pacific Coast Auction Galleries, Inc.'s sale of September 1983, Lot 1442. Earlier from Doering.*



### Plate Coin for the Second Edition of Breen-Gillio



**434 1876 Octagonal 50¢. BG-951. Rarity-5+. Indian Head. Large Date. MS-64 (PCGS).** Deep, frosty yellow gold motifs and mirrored fields graced with a touch of olive combine in a soft and appealing manner. Definitely scarce in the present grade, though the example we offered in 1992 as Texas:4299 was slightly finer. However, several of the known examples of this somewhat elusive variety are holed or plugged, making the present specimen all the more numismatically attractive.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Weight:** 0.21 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.1 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Very similar to BG-950. Indian head to left, 13 five-pointed stars around, three stars above Indian in straight line, central of those three points between feathers, star 6 impaled on dentils. Raised diagonal die line across Indian's cheek, upward across the ear and into the hair and feathers, another from the eyebrow downward to the curl before the ear. Large date numerals nicely spaced, all resting on dentils below (date numerals far from dentils on BG-950), 1 with elongated upper serif, 8 shorter than other numerals, 7 taller, fairly close to hair above.

**Reverse:** A.

**PCGS Population:** 9; 7 finer (all in MS-65).

*Purchased from Roger Wisted, May 7, 1985.*



**435 1878/6 Octagonal 50¢. BG-952. Rarity-5+. Indian Head. Large Date. MS-64 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Deep honey gold with distinctive orange highlights, particularly in the Indian's headdress. A delightfully deep prooflike cameo specimen of a scarce variety. Sharply struck, especially so for a variety that Doering noted "always" comes weak. "Ghosts" are noted on the reverse where a group of concave stars appears in the wreath, imparting a slightly jumbled yet artistically appealing appearance overall. One of the top ten examples graded by PCGS.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Weight:** 0.17 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.1 mm.

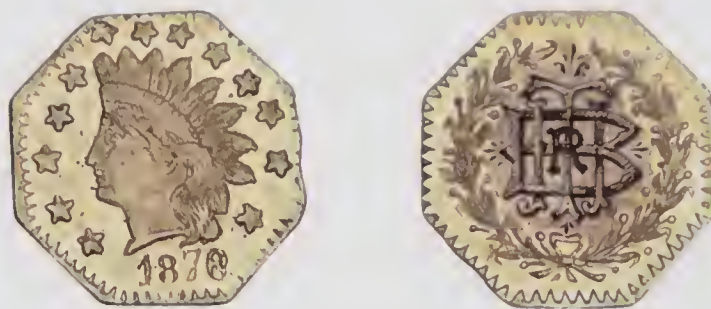
**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Reworked die of BG-950, bottom of 8 in date now incomplete, 6 now reworked by hand into a crude 8, remnants of underlying 6 plain.

**Reverse:** A.

**PCGS Population:** 7; 2 finer.

*Purchased from David Doering, November 30, 1978.*



**436 Love token. 1878/6 Octagonal 50¢. Indian Head. Large Date. BG-952.**

**Rarity-5+. AU-58.** A bright yellow gold cameo, essentially Mint State on the obverse. A classic little Love Token on a California Small Denomination gold half dollar, BG-952 to be precise. Initials on the reverse read RBTH, smallest to largest, or any combination of those four letters, whatever suits your fancy. Lovely workmanship and highly appealing, especially considering the host coin.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Weight:** 0.17 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.1 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

*From Mid-America's sale of January 1987, Lot 2157.*

### Elusive 1881 Octagonal Indian 50¢ BG-952B, Low Rarity-6 Formerly BG-957A



**437 1881 Octagonal 50¢. BG-952B, formerly BG-957A, BG-957/960, or BG-957, State I. Rarity-5. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Bright olive gold with frosty design elements and reflective fields. Traces of deep rose iridescence grace the high points, notably the stars. A fairly rare variety, one that was called "BG-957/960" by Jay Roe, and subsequently "BG-957A" by this writer (FVV) during cataloguing of the *Texas Collection*, at which time it was thought to be a new and unpublished variety. A few examples had been found by 1992 when the *Texas Collection* first appeared, but no mention was made in the numismatic press of the variety's existence up to that point. A thoroughly delightful example of a variety that, while not as rare as once thought, is still rare enough to draw serious bidding attention on those infrequent occasions when a specimen is offered for sale.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Weight:** 0.25 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.1 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Indian head to left, 13 five-pointed stars around, several stars lightly repunched, all stars point between feather pairs. Date below bust, 88 larger than first or last 1. A raised die line that appears to be a "long single strand" of hair runs diagonally across the Indian's neck and terminates at the edge of the truncation, where it points to the first 1 in the date.

**Reverse:** C. Open wreath, single leaves at ends curl up and away, 14 berries each side. Fraction at top, DOLLAR / CAL beneath, leaf attached to upper serif of D, another to lower right foot of R, C low in CAL.

**PCGS Population:** 9; 7 finer (using the data for BG-957A).

This rarity was discussed by Jay Roe in an article titled "When is a new variety of California Fractional gold not a new variety?" which was published in *The Brasher Bulletin*, Vol. 7, No. 2, pp. 2-3.

*Purchased from New England Rare Coins, February 1, 1978.*





**438 1876 Octagonal 50¢. BG-953. Rarity-5. Indian Head. MS-63 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Deep yellow gold with some olive and orange highlights. A sharp and attractive prooflike specimen of a fairly scarce variety.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Weight:** 0.18 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.1 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-951.

**Reverse:** B. No CAL. Open wreath, single leaf at left end curls back and away, opposite leaf nearly straight, 13 berries left, 13 right, elongated dentil pierces wreath at 3:00. Fraction at top, DOLLAR beneath, D smaller and tilted noticeably left, A noticeably repunched at bottom, leaf resembling a 14th berry attached to foot of R.

**PCGS Population:** 11; 11 finer.

*From Pacific Coast Auction Galleries, Inc.'s sale of September 1982, Lot 1065.*



**439 1880 Octagonal 50¢. BG-954. Rarity-4-. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A lustrous yellow gold cameo with strong contrast and equally strong eye appeal. Worthy of inclusion in a type set or other gathering of California Small Denomination gold pieces.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Weight:** 0.17 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.1 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Indian head noticeably left of center, 13 five-pointed stars around, first four and final five stars large, central four stars small, star 7 attached to dentil above, star 9 noticeably repunched. Date numerals hand-written, all robust and shapely.

**Reverse:** B. Here with some light reverse cracks at DO, the 2 of the fraction, and AR.

**Die State I.** Reverse as in BG-953.

**PCGS Population:** 34; 12 finer.

*From our sale of the Boyd, Brand, and Ryder Collections, March 1990, part of Lot 1786.*



**440 1880 Octagonal 50¢. BG-955. Rarity-6. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

Lustrous olive gold with some deeper golden highlights. A rare variety, first discovered by Kenneth W. Lee circa 1950-55, and since maintaining its rarity rating with dignity-11 years ago it was rated "Rarity-6+" in the *Texas Collection*, a rating that has barely changed in over a decade. A pleasing example (what else have we come to expect for rare pieces from the Jay Roe Collection?) of a variety that will see spirited bidding action.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Weight:** 0.23 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.1 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-954.

**Reverse:** C. Later state, CAL mostly effaced from die, leaf no longer connected to right foot of R.

**PCGS Population:** 7; 2 finer.



**441 1881 Octagonal 50¢. BG-956. Rarity-4+. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State I).

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Die State I:** Reverse not yet reworked.

**PCGS Population:** 28; 5 finer (all MS-65).



**442 1881 Octagonal 50¢. BG-956. Rarity-4+. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State II).

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Die State II:** Reverse reworked, top right leaf tip now curled upwards.

**PCGS Population:** 28; 5 finer (all MS-65).





- 443 1881 Octagonal 50c. BG-957. Rarity-6-. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-956.

**PCGS Population:** 8; 3 finer.



- 444 1874 Octagonal 50c. BG-958. Rarity-6+. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 9; 3 finer.



- 445 1874 Octagonal 50c. BG-958A. Rarity-7-. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

BG-958A is a new number in the second edition, covering what was formerly recorded as State II of BG-958. In essence, then, this is not a new variety, but simply a later state of a known variety. The difference between BG-958 and BG-958A hinges on the repolishing of the reverse: on the former, CAL is strong and bold – on the latter, CAL is nearly obliterated by heavy repolishing. In our opinion, this should have been designated BG-958a (with a lower case indicating a subvariety or die state à la Overton's work on half dollars or Cohen's work on half cents) instead of BG-958A (implying a new variety).

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-958.

**PCGS Population:** 1, the only example grade. However, expect more as the already-graded BG-958 examples are re-examined.

### Bacdated 1874 BG-959 Half Dollar



- 446 1874 Octagonal 50c. BG-959. Rarity-7. Indian Head. AU-50. The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Frosty, semi-brilliant, green-gold surfaces. Faint cleaning. Minimal ghosting on the bottom of the reverse. Variety discovered by Robert H. Burnie sometime between 1952 and 1955.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-958.

*From Kagin's ANA sale, August 8, 1986, Lot 3522.*



- 447 1868 Octagonal 50c. BG-960. Rarity-6. Indian Head. MS-65 (PCGS).

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A gorgeous piece, with semi-satiny, semi-brilliant, well-preserved surfaces. Struck ever-so-slightly off-center towards the bottom of the obverse. Tied for top honors at PCGS. This variety made its first appearance in Kenneth Lee's 1970 reference.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 6; none finer.



- 448 1868 Octagonal 50c. BG-960A. Rarity-6+. Indian Head. MS-65 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. This is actually a later state of BG-960, with CAL nearly obliterated from the reverse by heavy polishing. Prooflike.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-960.

**PCGS Population:** 1, the only example graded by PCGS.

*From Stack's December 12, 1987 auction, Lot 1106.*



**"1868" Backdated BG-961 Rarity****449 1868 Octagonal 50¢. BG-961. Rarity-7. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State I). Of the eight examples certified by PCGS, this is the second finest (behind only the MS-65 offered in the next lot)! Discovered by Robert H. Burnie sometime between 1952 and 1955.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-960.

**Die State I:** Before the reworking of the reverse die, here with no hook on the leaf tip at the upper right end of the wreath.

**PCGS Population:** 1; 1 finer (MS-65).

*From Pacific Coast Auction Galleries' NCNA sale, September 20, 1985, Lot 449.*

**A Second BG-961****450 1868 Octagonal 50¢. BG-961. Rarity-7. Indian Head. MS-65 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State II of the dies). The finest example graded by PCGS of both the die state and this rare variety.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-960.

**Die State II:** Reverse die re-worked (in 1881), now with a hook on the leaf tip at the end of the upper right wreath. However, this die lacks the diamond berry at the tail of R.

**PCGS Population:** 1; none finer.

*From Stack's sale of the Corrado Romero sale, June 22, 1987, Lot 972.*

**Extremely Rare "1852" Backdated Half Dollar  
BG-962, Rarity-7-****451 1852 Octagonal 50¢. BG-962. Rarity-7-. Indian Head. MS-65 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Of the seven examples graded by PCGS, this is tied with three others for top honors.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 4; none finer.

*From Pacific Coast Auction Galleries' NCNA sale, September 21, 1984, Lot 745.*

**452 1852 Octagonal 50¢. BG-962A. Rarity-6. Indian Head. MS-65 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. This a full-blown Gem and the only example graded by PCGS.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as 962.

**PCGS Population:** 1, the only example graded by PCGS.

**1881 "Crude Liberty Head" 50c  
BG-964, Extremely Rare****453 1881 Octagonal 50¢. BG-964. Rarity-7-. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).**

PCGS has graded only nine examples of this rarity, with six pieces huddled together at the MS-62 level. This seemingly high concentration at this grade is not the result of resubmissions (okay, perhaps one); rather, there are simply a number of separate pieces that have coincidentally received the identical grade.

**Maker:** Unknown Maker "D".

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 6; none finer.

*From Kurt Kreuger's ANA sale, July 30, 1984, Lot 2832.*



## A Second BG-964



454 1881 Octagonal 50¢. BG-964. Rarity-7-. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Tied with five other for the finest of 9 examples graded by PCGS.

Maker: Unknown Maker "D".

Edge: Plain.

PCGS Population: 6; none finer.



455 1881 Octagonal 50¢. BG-965. Rarity-6. Indian Head. Thick. MS-64 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Tied with four others for top honors at PCGS, this out of the 15 examples graded by them.

Maker: Unknown Maker "F".

Edge: Plain.

PCGS Population: 5; none finer.



456 1881 Octagonal 50¢. BG-965A. Rarity-5. Indian Head. Thin. MS-63 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Variety discovered by Jay Rowe in 1982, but the variety had been suspected (but not confirmed) as early as 1932.

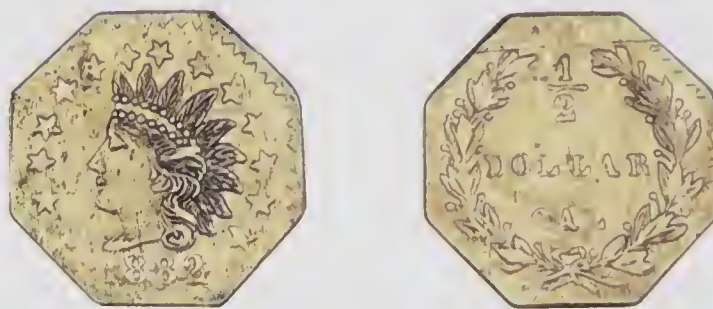
Maker: Unknown Maker "F".

Edge: Plain.

Obverse: Same as BG-965.

Reverse: Same as BG-965.

## 1881 "Young Indian Head" BG-966 Rarity



457 1882 Octagonal 50¢. BG-966. Rarity-7+. Indian Head. EF-40. The plate coin for Doering and the first and second editions of Breen-Gillio. Lightly cleaned to remove some pinpoint verdigris on the obverse. Also, with a horizontal scratch running across the top of the reverse. Slightly wavy and uneven planchet. An extremely rare and desirable variety, the only octagonal half dollar made by this manufacturer. One of only 5 or 6 pieces enumerated by Leonard et al. Discovered by Robert H. Burnie sometime between 1952 and 1955. A rare opportunity for the specialist to acquire this variety, along with a great pedigree.

Maker: Nast, Greenzweig & Co.

Edge: Plain.

## 1859-FD Half Dollar Rarity

Low Rarity-7



458 1859-FD Round 50¢. BG-1001. Rarity-7-. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. One of the top seven of nine examples graded by PCGS. Prooflike.

Maker: Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

Edge: Crudely reeded.

PCGS Population: 4; 3 finer (the best is a single MS-64).

From New England Rare Coin Auctions' FUN sale, January 10, 1980, Lot 1477.



459 1859 Round 50¢. BG-1002. Rarity-4+. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

Maker: Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

Edge: Crudely reeded (after striking).

Reverse: Same as BG-1001.

PCGS Population: 10; 7 finer (the best is a single MS-66).





**460 1859 Round 50¢. BG-1003. Rarity-6+. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Tied with two other examples as finest of nine examples graded by PCGS.

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-1001.

**PCGS Population:** 3; none finer.

**Attractive 1859 Round Liberty 25¢  
BG-1004, Low Rarity-6**



**461 1859 Round 50¢. BG-1004. Rarity-6-. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Tied with one other example for top honors at PCGS. Highly lustrous yellow gold with distinct olive highlights. Fully prooflike, with strong cameo contrast between the frosty motifs and the mirror fields. A truly delightful example of a rare variety, a coin that will certainly see spirited bidding activity. In the new Breen-Gillio reference, author Bob Leonard called this issue "Astonishingly prooflike for this maker."

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Weight:** 0.41 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.5 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Robust head of Liberty to left, nine five-pointed stars around, curl at ear, two curls at neck, two hair buns. Raised criss-cross die lines on Liberty's cheek, small raised dot on truncation.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-1001.

**PCGS Population:** 2; none finer.

*Purchased from New England Rare Coin Gallery, May 27, 1977.*



**462 1865 Round 50¢. BG-1005. Rarity-5-. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Lustrous deep yellow gold with a hint of rub. Formerly High Rarity-6, now called Low Rarity-5; perhaps not as rare as once thought but still a desirable variety by any account.

**Maker:** Frontier & Co.

**Weight:** 0.36 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.4 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-1004, now cracked through stars 5 and 6, then to rim above star 7. Die also strengthened and polished, star 1 shows repunching, top of hair now incomplete where it meets uppermost hair bun.

**Reverse:** Berries nine left, three within wreath, six right, two within wreath, all berries of varying sizes from tiny to large. Crude numerals and letters, 1 in date repunched. Fraction without bar. D of DOLLAR smaller than other letters, LL lean noticeably left, R embedded in wreath.

**PCGS Population:** 6; 23 finer.

*Purchased from Green Mountain Coin & Stamp, February 3, 1979.*

**Choice Uncirculated "1866" Round 50¢  
DOLIAR Variety  
BG-1006**



**463 1866 Round 50¢. BG-1006. Rarity-5. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Bright and lustrous yellow gold with strong olive highlights. Somewhat prooflike in the protected areas. The popular DOLIAR variety, probably a punching error and not a spelling error (see below). First discovered by David Prosky or John W. Scott; first published in *The Coin Collector's Journal*, March 1884, pg. 40. An outstanding coin for the assigned grade.

**Maker:** Frontier & Co.

**Weight:** 0.42 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.7 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Robust head of Liberty, 10 stars around, nine with five points, the star below Liberty with six points, probable repunching accounts for same. A faint but persistent die crack connects virtually all of the stars.

**Reverse:** Berries six left, the bottom three berries in a line, six right, uppermost inner berry a tiny dot. No fraction bar. Berry nearly touches bottom of D in DOLLAR, first L weak at bottom, bottom of second L overlapped by foot of A, giving the appearance of an I, left upright of A broken, top of R broken, R nearly touching berry and wreath. First and second 6 in date touch, second six high and repunched (repunching faint, may later fade from die).

**PCGS Population:** 11; 2 finer (both MS-65).

*From our sale of the Connecticut Historical Society and M. Vernon Sheldon Collections, April 1983, Lot 933.*





**464 1867 Round 50¢. BG-1007. Rarity-4+. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Lustrous honey gold with some faint reflectivity. Light scratches present on the obverse. This variety is struck on low karat gold planchets with higher quality gold plating.

**Maker:** Frontier & Co.

**Weight:** 0.33 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.8 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-1006.

**Reverse:** Berries 10 to left of various sizes and pairings, 10 to right of uniform size and pairings. Date low in wreath, berry close to left base of 1, with 1, 8, and 6 thin and tenuous, 7 thick and stocky, higher than other numerals, upright and top separate. D, O, A, and R in DOLLAR all broken, each L blob-like. No fraction bar, top of 1 blob-like, 2 evidently over a 1.

**PCGS Population:** 6; 28 finer.

*Purchased from New England Rare Coin Gallery, February 1, 1978.*



**465 1868 Round 50¢. BG-1008. Rarity-5-. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Bright honey gold with strong lustre and a touch of prooflike reflectivity. Nicely struck and decidedly choice for the grade, what today's collectors consider "high end." Moderately scarce but thoroughly desirable in the present grade.

**Maker:** Frontier & Co.

**Weight:** 0.32 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.7 mm.

**Edge:** Weakly reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-1006.

**Reverse:** Berries seven left, one directly under 1 in date, seven right (perhaps eight-two "berries" under R in DOLLAR, one may be a leaf fragment), one after 8 in date, one opposite top of R. No fraction bar. DOL slightly higher than LAR, A and R joined at base. Date low, 18 closely spaced, 868 widely spaced, first 8 thin and tenuous, second 8 thick and broad, larger than 6 and tilted noticeably left.

**PCGS Population:** 13; 7 finer (all MS-65).

*Purchased from New England Rare Coin Gallery, July 25, 1977.*



**466 1868 Round 50¢. BG-1009. Rarity-5. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Among the top ten exemplified certified by PCGS. Attractive olive gold. A satiny, frosty beauty with plenty of lustre and a great deal of eye appeal. Moderately scarce in all grades, certainly more so when found as fine as the present coin. Matthew Stickney, who began collecting coins circa 1818, had a specimen of this variety in his collection; it was sold by Henry Chapman in June 1907, Lot 1907.

**Maker:** Frontier & Co.

**Weight:** 0.39 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.6 mm.

**Edge:** Weakly reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-1006.

**Reverse:** Berries two pairs left, two pairs right, minute berry near top of R. No fraction bar, numerator tilted crazily to right, denominator tilted to left. Letters in DOLLAR uneven at bottom, L and A joined at base. 1 and 8 of date widely spaced, 8 and 6 closer, 6 and 9 wider, 9 repunched, 8 noticeably larger than other numerals. Circular lathing marks seen on the present specimen.

**PCGS Population:** 8; 1 finer (MS-65).

*From our sale of the Norweb Collection, October 1987, Lot 1113.*



**467 1870 Round 50¢. BG-1010. Rarity-3. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Bright yellow gold with distinctive olive highlights. Frosty motifs and mirror fields form a strong cameo contrast. An attractive "high-end" example of a fairly plentiful California Small Denomination gold issue, of the sort that makes a great entry-level introduction to this fascinating series. At the age of just 20 years old or so, 19th century numismatist Captain Andrew C. Zabriskie began a strong interest in the series when he purchased the California Small Denomination gold collection of Augustus Humbert from the latter's estate executors circa 1873-74. The Zabriskie Collection was later sold by Henry Chapman on June 3, 1909; Zabriskie's example of the present variety was sold in that sale as Lot 396.

**Maker:** Frontier & Co.

**Weight:** 0.35 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.9 mm.

**Edge:** Weakly reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-1006.

**Reverse:** Berries four left in two pairs, seven right, two inside wreath, five outside, uppermost inner berry on right touches top of R in DOLLAR, a die mark resembling a tiny berry appears as if an apostrophe above space between A and R. In DOLLAR, D and O widely spaced, other letters evenly spaced, upper left of D attached to wreath, second L and A connected at the bases, giving the DOLLAR effect, A broken on left upright. No fraction bar, 1 of fraction without right foot, 2 without base and farther left than 1. Date numerals uneven, 1 smaller and leans noticeably to right, 0 spaced farther than other numerals.

**PCGS Population:** 34; 16 finer.

*From Kurt Krueger's sale of July 1984, Lot 2852.*





**468 1871 Round 50¢. BG-1011. Rarity-2. Liberty Head. MS-65 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Deep yellow gold with frosted motifs and mirror fields that display warm olive iridescence. An impressive gem example of the variety that will bring definite pride of ownership to its next steward.

**Maker:** Frontier & Co.

**Weight:** 0.35 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.7 mm.

**Edge:** Weakly reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-1006, now with light cracks and some stars distorted or broken at the tips.

**Reverse:** No berries. No fraction bar, fraction numerals large, well-placed, and well-formed. DOLLAR and date also nicely formed and spaced; a handsome and sharp reverse from this maker.

**PCGS Population:** 24; 7 finer (all MS-66).

*Purchased from Al Adams Rare Coins, January 5, 1982.*



**469 1873 Round 50¢. BG-1012. Rarity-5+. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. An impressive prooflike specimen of this moderately scarce variety, among the top ten examples certified by PCGS. Yellow gold surfaces show definite olive highlights. Decidedly choice for the assigned grade; an MS-65 grade would not have been out of line here. This variety saw its first publication in the *Coin Collector's Journal*, March 1884, page 40, and was discovered by either David Proskey or John W. Scott. A crude counterfeit of this variety exists (BG-1325).

**Maker:** Frontier & Bellemere.

**Weight:** 0.35 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.6 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-1011 (BG-1006 but with rust and faint cracks).

**Reverse:** Berries three left, a pair plus a single, two within wreath; four right, two pairs. Fraction bar, numerals nicely shaped. DOLLAR evenly spaced and letters nicely shaped. Date numerals evenly spaced, progressively lower from left to right, flat-topped 3, period after date.

**PCGS Population:** 6; 3 finer.

*From Kagin's sale of October 1977, Lot 1157.*



**470 1872 Round 50¢. BG-1013. Rarity-6-. Liberty Head. AU-58.** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Lightly brushed. Lustrous yellow gold, prooflike, with decided olive highlights. A solid example of a fairly rare variety despite some faint surface disturbances. Recent research shows this variety was apparently made to sell in sets along with Octagonal half dollars BG-913 and 914.

**Maker:** Frontier & Bellemere.

**Weight:** 0.36 grams.

**Diameter:** 10.7 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Taller, narrower head of Liberty to left, 13 six-pointed stars around, stars 3, 8, 11, and 12 noticeably smaller and thinner. Date numerals follow curve of rim, 1 high, 8 lower, 7 lower still, 2 higher. Beaded border.

**Reverse:** Open wreath, no berries. Six-pointed star at top of wreath, HALF / DOLLAR / CAL within wreath. Central weakness not uncommon for this variety.

**PCGS Population:** 1; 11 finer.

*Purchased from David Doering, December 8, 1978.*



**471 1860/56 Round 50¢. BG-1014. Rarity-4+. Liberty Head. AU-58.**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Frosty olive gold with rich golden toning, somewhat prooflike on the reverse. Pleasing enough for the grade that many might call it Mint State. Made by Robert B. Gray & Co., the successor firm to Nouzillet & Routhier, from dies originally made and used by the latter firm in 1856 (see die notes below). This somewhat elusive variety was illustrated as early as 1863, when it appeared in *Current Gold and Silver Coins of All Countries* (Vol. 3, Plate XXVI, ills. 1 and 6, pg. 136), published by Trubner & Co. of London.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Weight:** 0.57 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.1 mm.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-434 (1856-N), as made by Nouzillet & Routhier, here with heavy clash marks around Liberty's portrait.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-434 (1856-N), as made by Nouzillet & Routhier, but reworked by Gray & Co. Berries on BG-434 four pairs per side, here on BG-1014 the count is uncertain due to polishing and reworking, five faint berries seen to left, four faint berries to right. HALF DOL. CALIFORNIA GOLD around an open wreath, date slightly above center within wreath, star at bottom of wreath punched over N (for Nouzillet & Routhier) maker's mark. Several letters in legend repunched with larger style letters (large L over small L plainly evident in CALIFORNIA). Date now 1860, punched over 1856, 6 in date swollen and fat, 0 shows traces of underlying 6. Die shattered with strong cracks at the center and in many places around the periphery.

**PCGS Population:** 9; 24 finer.

*From NASCA's sale of May 1979, Lot 3449.*



**Second BG-1015 Round 50¢****Rarity-7****Die State II****Breen-Gillio First Edition Plate Coin****472 1864 Round 50¢. BG-1015. Rarity-7. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the first and second edition, of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State II). Tied with two others as the finest of seven examples graded by PCGS. Frosty yellow gold motifs and mirror fields form an outstanding cameo contrast.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.**Weight:** 0.54 grams.**Diameter:** 11.1 mm.**Edge:** Crudely reeded.**Obverse:** Same as previous (BG-1015).**Reverse:** Same as previous, here reworked (see below).

**Die State II.** Reverse die now reworked and repolished. Some leaves are stronger, other areas of the wreath weaker, terminal leaves at top now with single points. Star atop wreath repunched, now with seven distinct points.

**PCGS Population:** 3; none finer.*Purchased from David Doering, July 27, 1984.***Rare 1864 Round Half Dollar****BG-1015, Rarity-7****Die State I****473 1864 Round 50¢. BG-1015. Rarity-7. Liberty Head. MS-61 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State I). One of only seven examples certified by PCGS. Rich honey gold with strong orange highlights, some prooflike reflectivity present on the obverse. Struck on base gold planchet with finer gold plating. A rare variety in either die state (see below and next lot). Formerly Rarity-8; at the time of our sale of the *Texas Collection* in 1992 it was thought just two examples of the variety existed. A few more have come to light since that sale, but at Rarity-7, its *new* designation, the variety still presents a formidable challenge to any and all California Small Denomination gold collectors. The appearance of the two Jay Rowe specimens, representing *both* die states of this rarity, is an occurrence not likely to happen again for a considerable length of time, if at all! This rare variety was first identified by Robert H. Burnie, circa 1952-55.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.**Weight:** 0.47 grams.**Diameter:** 11.1 mm.**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Smaller head of Liberty to left, 13 stars around, first five stars between Liberty's neckline and tip of coronet, stars 2 and 5 larger than others, stars 2, 3, 4, and 5 impaled on dentils, all other stars touch dentils.

**Reverse:** Open-topped wreath, no berries, six-pointed star at top, HALF / DOLLAR / 1864 on three lines within wreath. H and A widely spaced, A and L normal, L and F widely spaced, date numerals widely spaced.

**Die State I.** Dies not yet polished, top leaves in wreath split at tips.**PCGS Population:** 1; 3 finer.*Purchased from Eugene Lucas, May 7, 1980.***474 1864 Round 50¢. BG-1016. Rarity-4. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Deep yellow gold with some orange and olive highlights and some prooflike reflectivity as well. A wholly pleasing example of the usually seen die state of BG-1016 (and much more easy to locate than its counterpart, BG-1016A).

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.**Weight:** 0.51 grams.**Diameter:** 11.1 mm.**Edge:** Plain.**Obverse:** Same as BG-1015, repolished.

**Reverse:** Same as previous (BG-1015), here reworked yet again. Now with heavy crack from rim at 4:00, through wreath, then to top of 4 in date. Other cracks from rim at 9:00 to wreath, and at tops of HALF.

**Die State II:** Both stem ends of nearly equal length.**PCGS Population:** 10; 32 finer.*Purchased from Alan Schinsky, June 23, 1980.*



**Elusive 1864 Round 50¢**  
**BG-1016A, Formerly BG-1016 Die State I**  
**Possibly Rarity-8**



**475 1864 Round 50¢. BG-1016A. Rarity-8. Liberty Head. MS-61 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Deep honey gold with a touch of orange and some prooflike reflectivity. A few faint, shallow marks are seen at the center of the reverse. Considerably rarer than its counterpart with Die State II diagnostics (see BG-1016, preceding lot), perhaps even Rarity-8! Certainly worth pursuing regardless of its speculated rarity, as it is just that, a rarity!

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Weight:** 0.52 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.1 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-1015, repolished.

**Reverse:** Same as previous (BG-1015), here reworked again. Leaves now solid and in slightly different counts, bow solid, upper leaves now appear as buds rather than pointed leaves. Date and legends essentially unchanged for placement but slightly different as to thicknesses, etc.

**Die State I:** Left stem end considerably longer than stem on right.

**PCGS Population:** Included among the 60 BG-1016's graded by PCGS, but it really should be broken out and re-designated with the proper attribution.

*From Kurt Krueger's "Grafton" sale of May 1980, Lot 558.*

**Rare 1866-G Round 50¢**  
**BG-1017, High Rarity 6**



**476 1866-G Round 50¢. BG-1017. Rarity-6+. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Tied with one other example as the finest of 9 piece certified by PCGS. Highly lustrous yellow gold with prooflike fields and distinctive olive highlights. A desirable rarity from the firm of Robert B. Gray & Co., and one of the few BG varieties that was *not* represented in our landmark offering of the *Texas Collection* in 1992. This rare variety was first described by Lee in 1970. A special item, a coin with rarity, quality, and eye appeal of the sort that make for grand bidding contests, so be prepared to go increment by increment when this one crosses the auction block!

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Weight:** 0.45 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.2 mm.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Small head of Liberty to left, 13 six-pointed stars around, six stars between point of bust and tip of coronet, G maker's mark below bust, close to rim and touching dentils, distant from neckline above. First and final two stars considerably smaller than the others.

**Reverse:** Open wreath of five pairs of trefoils per side, four pairs of berries each side, each branch terminates with single berry, one berry on right nearly touches foot of R. Five-pointed star atop wreath, HALF / DOLLAR / 1866 within wreath. Date numerals widely spaced. Bow at bottom of wreath with pronounced dot in center of knot, loops of bow disconnected at their centers from polishing. Die heavily cracked from rim at 11:00, horizontally across wreath and below star, where it unites with a second crack that runs in an arc from the rim at 12:00, within the wreath, then across it to the rim at 3:00.

**Die State II.** Reverse die cracks, see above.

**PCGS Population:** 2; none finer.

*Purchased from A.S. Andrews, November 16, 1994.*





- 477 1867-G Round 50¢. BG-1018. Rarity-4+. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Deep honey gold with frosted motifs, mirrored fields, and a hint of olive iridescence. An attractive coin with plenty of lustre and eye appeal for the assigned grade.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Weight:** 0.39 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.2 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Similar to BG-1017. Small head of Liberty to left, 13 six-pointed stars around, six stars between point of bust and tip of coronet, G maker's mark below bust, in the same circular line as the stars, all well in from the rim. Stars of uniform size. Liberty's hair buns separate from head due to polishing.

**Reverse:** Similar to BG-1017. Open wreath of five pairs of trefoils per side, four pairs of berries each side, each branch terminates with single berry, berry on right opposite top loop of R. Five-pointed star atop wreath, HALF / DOLLAR / 1867 within wreath. HALF widely spaced. Knot in bow hollow, knot, ribbons, and stems all unattached from polishing.

**PCGS Population:** 21; 9 finer.

*Purchased from New England Rare Coin Gallery, February 1, 1978.*



- 478 1868-G Round 50¢. BG-1019. Rarity-5. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Deep yellow gold mirrors and frosty motifs display bright olive highlights. A choice example of the variety, a coin with strong eye appeal and individual character. More importantly, this one is tied with three others as finest graded by PCGS.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Weight:** 0.41 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.2 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Small head of Liberty to left, 13 six-pointed stars around, six stars between point of chin and tip of coronet, G maker's mark below bust, in the same circular line as the stars, all well in from the rim. Stars of small but uniform size.

**Reverse:** Open wreath of seven pairs of trefoils per side, six pairs of berries each side, each branch terminates in a trefoil. Five-pointed star atop wreath, HALF / DOLLAR / 1868 within wreath. All letters nicely spaced, final 8 in date widely spaced. Knot of bow tiny, two thin but nicely formed loops on bow.

**PCGS Population:** 4; none finer.

*Purchased from Patashnick, November 25, 1995.*



- 479 1869-G Round 50¢. BG-1020. Rarity-4-. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A delightful (for the grade, of course) prooflike specimen of the variety, this struck in bright yellow gold with definite olive highlights. Not a rarity by any means, but still attractive enough that you would be remiss if you did not try to own this beauty.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Weight:** 0.46 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.2 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-1019.

**Reverse:** Open wreath, five pairs of trefoils each side, four pairs of berries each side, wreath tips end with single berry. Five-pointed star atop wreath, HALF / DOLLAR / 1869 within wreath. Letters and numerals nicely spaced, 8 slightly high, 6 low, 9 lower. Thin single-loop bow.

**PCGS Population:** 11; 2 finer (the best is a single MS-65).

*Purchased from New England Rare Coin Gallery, February 1, 1978.*

### Elusive 1869-G Round 50¢ BG-1021, High Rarity-6



- 480 1869-G Round 50¢. BG-1021. Rarity-6+. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. An impressive yellow gold specimen of a rare variety. Bright mirror fields encircle frosty motifs, all bathed with a warm olive glow. Second finest of 14 examples certified by PCGS. A grand opportunity for a collector or specialist who has moved beyond the "garden variety" issues (Rarity-3 to 5 or so) and is now beginning to tackle the elusive issues.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Weight:** 0.46 grams.

**Diameter:** 11.2 mm.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Shapely head of Liberty to left, 13 five-pointed stars in complete circle around, G maker's mark below and fairly close to truncation. Three-part hair bun at back of Liberty's head.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-1020, cracked. Die crack downward from field above D, diagonally across 86 of date, then to field below 9, another from bottom left leg of R to back of 9 below.

**PCGS Population:** 1; 1 finer (MS-64).

*From Superior's sale of June 1985, Lot 1994.*





- 481 1870-G Round 50c. BG-1022. Rarity-6+. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Tied with three other examples for top honors at PCGS and one of only a dozen examples graded by them.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-1021.

**PCGS Population:** 4; none finer.

**Rare and Desirable 1870-G 50c**  
A Tough, Low Rarity-7 Variety



- 482 1870-G Round 50c. BG-1023. Rarity-7-. Liberty Head. AU-55 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. One of only six examples graded by PCGS.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**PCGS Population:** 1; 4 finer.

*From Superior's "Lawson" sale, June 4, 1985, Lot 1995. Earlier from Doering.*



- 483 1870-G Round 50c. BG-1024. Rarity-4-. Liberty Head. MS-61 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State I).

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Weakly reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-1023.

**PCGS Population:** 18; 50 finer.



- 484 1871-G Round 50c. BG-1025. Rarity-5. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Weakly reeded.

**PCGS Population:** 5; 20 finer.



- 485 1871-G Round 50c. BG-1026. Rarity-4-. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-1025.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-1023.

**PCGS Population:** 24; 36 finer.



- 486 1871-G Round 50c. BG-1027, Rarity-5. Liberty Head. MS-60 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State I). This variety has been attributed as BG-1026A in the past and several coins have been certified as such (PCGS shows 26 BG-1026A's in their Population Report). BG-1026A has been delisted and is now recognized as BG-1027 State I. The same is true for BG-1027A, which is also now recognized as BG-1027 State I.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-1025.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-1025.

**Die State I:** No repolishing of the obverse die.

**PCGS Population:** 7; 66 finer.





**487 1871-G Round 50¢. BG-1027, State II. Rarity-4. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State II).

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-1025.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-1025.

**Die State II:** Obverse drastically repolished, effacing the bottom of the second 1 of the date and much of the hair detail.

**PCGS Population:** 22; 73 finer.



**490 1871-L Round 50¢. BG-1030. Rarity-6. Liberty Head. AU-55 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** California Jewelry Co.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-1030.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-1027.

**PCGS Population:** 1; 9 finer.



**488 1871-G Round 50¢. BG-1028. Rarity-6+. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Tied with four others as finest of the eight examples certified by PCGS.

**Maker:** California Jewelry Co.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-1025.

**PCGS Population:** 5; none finer.



**491 1873 Round 50¢. BG-1031. Rarity-6+. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Second finest of the nine examples graded by PCGS.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 1; 1 finer (MS-63).

### Extremely Rare 1873 Half Dollar



**492 1873 Round 50¢. BG-1032. Rarity-7+. Liberty Head. MS-61 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Tied with one other piece for second finest graded by PCGS.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-1031.

**PCGS Population:** 2; 1 finer.

*From our "Roy Harte" sale, January 25, 1983, Lot 119. Earlier from Abe Kosoff and Numismatic Enterprises' "NASC" sale, February 19, 1970, Lot 144.*



**489 1871-L Round 50¢. BG-1029. Rarity-4+. Liberty Head. MS-61 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** California Jewelry Co.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-1028.

**PCGS Population:** 5; 13 finer.



## Clipped Planchet BG-1033



**493 1874 Round 50c. BG-1033. Rarity-5. Liberty Head. AU-55.** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State I). Usual Prooflike surfaces, here in a sunny-yellow version. Interesting, tiny planchet clip at 7:00 on the obverse. Apparently, more than one example of this variety is known with a clip; Leonard et al cite the "...the Lee specimen and others..." as having edge clips! This variety may have been known as early as 1924, but was certainly confirmed by Ed Lee in 1932.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-1031.

## Extremely Rare 1874 BG-1034 50c

One of Six to Seven Examples Known



**494 1874 Round 50c. BG-1034. Rarity-7+. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Among the top five examples certified by PCGS, exceeded only by a single MS-64.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-1031.

**PCGS Population:** 4; 1 finer (MS-64).

*From Heritage's "Long Beach" sale, June 1, 1985, Lot 434.*



**495 1875 Round 50c. BG-1035. Rarity-5+. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Among the top four examples certified by PCGS.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-1031.

**PCGS Population:** 3; 1 finer.

## Exceedingly Rare 1875 Small Indian Head

Half Dollar

One of Four Known



**496 1875 Round 50c. BG-1036. Rarity-7+. Indian Head. MS-63 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. The finest of three examples certified by PCGS. Variety discovered by Kenneth Lee sometime between 1970 and 1979. Prooflike.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 1; none finer.

*From New England Rare Coin Auctions' "Long Beach I" sale, June 6, 1981, Lot 1278.*



**497 1875 Round 50c. BG-1037. Rarity-4. Indian Head. MS-63 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Surprisingly hard to find nice. PCGS has graded only three examples finer than the one offered here. Discovered by Robert Burnie sometime between 1952 and 1955.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-1036.

**PCGS Population:** 20; 3 finer.



**498 1876 Round 50c. BG-1038. Rarity-4. Indian Head. MS-62 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-1036.

**PCGS Population:** 20; 13 finer.



**Possibly Unique 1876 "Baby Head"****BG-1039 50¢****The Only Example to Appear at Public Auction****499 1876 Round 50¢. BG-1039. Unique. Liberty Head. MS-61 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the first and second editions of Breen-Gillio. Variety discovered by Jay Rowe (mis-attributed) in Kurt Krueger's 1980 sale of the "Chattaway Bay" sale. Leonard et al list this variety as unique, but three are listed in the PCGS *Population Report*. Unfortunately, neither of the other two has come on the market to our knowledge.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.**Edge:** Plain.**Reverse:** Same as BG-1036.**PCGS Population:** 2; 1 finer.

From Superior's sale on September 22, 1998, Lot 2421. Previously from Pacific Coast Auction Galleries' "NCNA" sale, September 23, 1983, Lot 1471. Earlier from Kurt Krueger's "Chataway Bay" sale, August 2, 1980, Lot 1133, misidentified as a Lee 54A.

**500 1876 Round 50¢. BG-1039A. Rarity-6+. Liberty Head. MS-60 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.**Edge:** Plain.**Reverse:** Same as BG-1036.

**PCGS Population:** PCGS has not graded any BG-1039A's, instead calling them BG-1040A's, which the new Breen-Gillio reference calls a Pseudo BG number). PCGS has graded 10 examples of the BG-1040A, with a population of 2 in MS-60; 5 finer.

**501 1876 Round 50¢. BG-1040. Rarity-5+. Liberty Head. MS-61 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.**Edge:** Plain.**Obverse:** Same as BG-1039A.**PCGS Population:** 3; 5 finer (the best is a single MS-64).

**502 1871-H Round 50¢. BG-1041. Rarity-6+. Liberty Head. EF-45.** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Soft, satiny, semi-brilliant, yellow-gold surfaces, the reverse with a matte, sandblast texture from an acid bath (Leonard et al note that this variety is "Often found with jewelry damage"). The first appearance of this variety was in the Pine Tree Auction sale of March 6, 1976, Lot 2757. Lee published the variety in 1979, but it was not illustrated until 1980, when the Doering's published their *California Fractional Gold*. Thus, even today, few collectors have even seen the variety "in the flesh."

**Maker:** Hershfield & Mitchell.**Edge:** Plain."**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.**Edge:** Plain.**Obverse:** Same as BG-1039A.**PCGS Population:** 3; 5 finer (the best is a single MS-64).**Extremely Rare 1871-H Half Dollar****BG-1042, Rarity-7+**

**503 1871-H Round 50¢. BG-1042. Rarity-7+. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. One of only four examples graded by PCGS.

An extremely rare variety from this maker. In fact, all of Hershfield & Mitchell's Liberty Head round half dollars rank at least Rarity-6 to Rarity-7 with the exception of BG-1045 (which itself is a Rarity 5).

**Maker:** Hershfield & Mitchell.**Edge:** Plain.**Obverse:** Same as BG-1041.**PCGS Population:** 1; 3 finer.

From Stack's "Lighthouse" sale, June 17, 1978, Lot 1011.



**Desirable 1871-H 50c**

BG-1043, Rarity-7-



**504 1871-H Round 50c. BG-1043. Rarity-6+. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State II). The finest of 9 examples graded by PCGS.

**Maker:** Hershfield & Mitchell.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 1; none finer.

*Believed to be from Superior's "Lee" sale, September 25, 1988, Lot 951. Previously from the Rarities Group.*



**505 1871-H Round 50c. BG-1044. Rarity-6+. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A very elusive variety, of which only seven examples have been certified by PCGS. Of those, only two (including this one) have earned the MS-64 grade, with none finer. Discovered by Kenneth Lee prior to his write-up of the variety in 1970.

**Maker:** Hershfield & Mitchell.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-1043.

**PCGS Population:** 2; none finer.



**506 1871-H Round 50c. BG-1045. Rarity-5. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Hershfield & Mitchell.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-1044.

**PCGS Population:** 9; 24 finer.

**1871-H "Sans Serif Date" Round Half Dollar**

BG-1046, Rarity-7-



**507 1871-H Round 50c. BG-1046. Rarity-7-. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Attributed to Hershfield and Mitchell of Leavenworth, Kansas (quite a ways from the gold fields of California!). The reverse features the unusual, sans-serif lettering peculiar to this maker). PCGS has graded 12 examples of this variety, this being among the top seven of those. Semi-Prooflike.

**Maker:** Hershfield & Mitchell.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 4; 3 finer (the best is a single MS-65).

*From a Coin Galleries Mail Bid Sale, February 12, 1986, Lot 1838.*



**508 1870 Round 50c. BG-1047. Rarity-4+. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Unknown Maker "C".

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**PCGS Population:** 9; 11 finer.



**509 1872 Round 50c. BG-1048. Rarity-4-. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Christopher "Christoph" Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 21; 6 finer.





**510 1872 Round 50¢. BG-1049. Rarity-4. Indian Head. MS-63 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Christopher "Christoph" Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-1048.

**PCGS Population:** 27; 22 finer.



**513 1873 Round 50¢. BG-1051. Rarity-5-. Indian Head. MS-63 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Christopher "Christoph" Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-1048.

**PCGS Population:** 11; 7 finer.



**511 1873/2 Round 50¢. BG-1050. Rarity-6-. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Among the top six examples certified by PCGS. Known as the "Blob Nose" variety because of the protrusion on the Indian's proboscis.

**Maker:** Christopher "Christoph" Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-1049.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-1048.

**PCGS Population:** 5; 1 finer (MS-65).



**514 1874/3 Round 50¢. BG-1052. Rarity-4+. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State I). Among the top dozen examples certified by PCGS.

**Maker:** Christopher "Christoph" Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-1048.

**Die State I.**

**PCGS Population:** 10; 2 finer (both MS-65).



**512 1873/2 Round 50¢. BG-1050. Rarity-6-. Indian Head. Double Struck. AU-58 (PCGS).**

**Maker:** Christopher "Christoph" Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-1049.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-1048.

**PCGS Population:** 1; 16 finer.



**515 1874/3 Round 50¢. BG-1052. Rarity-4+. Indian Head. MS-63 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State II).

**Maker:** Christopher "Christoph" Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-1048.

**Die State II.**

**PCGS Population:** 11; 12 finer.





**516 1874 Round 50¢. BG-1053. Rarity-5+. Indian Head. MS-65 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. The one and only MS-65, the best certified by PCGS.

**Maker:** Christopher "Christoph" Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Partially plain, partially crudely reeded.

**PCGS Population:** 1; none finer.



**519 1875 Round 50¢. BG-1056. Rarity-4+. Indian Head. MS-63 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Christopher "Christoph" Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-1053.

**PCGS Population:** 12; 12 finer.

### Extremely Rare 1874 BG-1054 Half Dollar



**517 1874 Round 50¢. BG-1054. Rarity-7-. Indian Head. MS-62 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Fifth finest of the ten examples listed by Leonard et al in their *California Pioneer Fractional Gold*. Among the top ten examples certified by PCGS. Variety discovered by Kenneth Lee sometime before he wrote it up in 1970.

**Maker:** Christopher "Christoph" Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-1053.

**PCGS Population:** 4; 5 finer.



**520 1875 Round 50¢. BG-1057. Rarity-5+. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Among the top ten examples certified by PCGS.

**Maker:** Christopher "Christoph" Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-1056.

**PCGS Population:** 8; 2 finer (both MS-65).



**521 1875/3 Round 50¢. BG-1058. Rarity-3. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State I). One of the top dozen examples certified by PCGS.

**Maker:** Christopher "Christoph" Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-1057.

**PCGS Population:** 8; 4 finer (all MS-65).



**518 1874 Round 50¢. BG-1055. Rarity-4+. Indian Head. MS-63 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Christopher "Christoph" Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-1053.

**PCGS Population:** 14; 6 finer.





**522 \*1875/3 Indian Head Round 50 Cents. Love Token. Type of BG-1058.\***

A polished, pink-gold curiosity, once holed at the top, now with a triangular chip out of the edge. The reverse was planed down and re-engraved with the monogrammed initials "F."

**Maker:** Christopher "Christoph" Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.



**523 1876/5 Round 50¢. BG-1059. Rarity-4. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. One of the top eight examples certified by PCGS.

**Maker:** Christopher "Christoph" Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-1058.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-1058.

**PCGS Population:** 6; 2 finer.



**524 1876 Round 50¢. BG-1060. Rarity-5+. Indian Head. MS-65 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. One of only two Gem examples of this variety graded by PCGS, with none finer. Variety discovered by Kenneth Lee sometime before he wrote it up in 1970.

**Maker:** Christopher "Christoph" Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-1058.

**PCGS Population:** 2; none finer.

**Extremely Rare BG-1061 1876 50c**



**525 1876 Round 50¢. BG-1061. Rarity-7+. Indian Head. MS-63 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. PCGS has graded only 5 examples, this being their second finest (by a single point) and one of only two Mint State examples certified by them. Variety discovered by Kenneth Lee sometime before he wrote it up in 1970.

The rarity of this and the next variety (BG-1062, both of which share a common obverse) is baffling. Why would the maker go to the expense of making three different dies (one obverse and three reverse) only to strike a very few pieces. We suspect that a fair quantity of these were made in the initial run, but that most were either destroyed as "no-sales" or lost. We're not sure if this theory has ever been researched, but it could be that each year's unsold product was destroyed at the end of the year and converted back into raw gold. Since these pieces were made for jewelry, isn't it reasonable to expect that buyers would want coins from the latest year of issue?

**Maker:** Christopher "Christoph" Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 1; 1 finer (MS-64).

**Elusive 1876 Half Dollar**

**BG-1062, Rarity-7**



**526 1876 Round 50¢. BG-1062. Rarity-7. Indian Head. MS-62 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State I). A beautiful, Large Indian Head type. PCGS has certified only seven examples of this variety. Discovered by the Doerings sometime prior to the publication of their 1980 reference book.

**Maker:** Christopher "Christoph" Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-1061.

**PCGS Population:** 2; 4 finer (all MS-63).

*From a Pacific Coast Auction Galleries sale, September 23, 1983, Lot 1486.*





**527 1876 Round 50¢. BG-1063. Rarity-6-. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Spectacular die clash both sides. One of the top five examples certified by PCGS.

**Maker:** Christopher "Christoph" Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-1062.

**Die State II:**

**PCGS Population:** 4; 1 finer (MS-65).



**530 1878/6 Round 50¢. BG-1066. Rarity-5+. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Tied with six others as the finest certified by PCGS. Variety discovered by Kenneth Lee sometime between 1950 and 1955.

**Maker:** Christopher "Christoph" Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-1065.

**PCGS Population:** 7; none finer.



**528 1876 Round 50¢. BG-1064. Rarity-6. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Tied with six others as finest certified by PCGS.

**Maker:** Christopher "Christoph" Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 7; none finer.



**531 1880/70 Round 50¢. BG-1067. Rarity-4-. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Christopher "Christoph" Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 20; 3 finer (all MS-65).



**529 1876 Round 50¢. BG-1065. Rarity-5. Indian Head. MS-63 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Christopher "Christoph" Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 12; 15 finer.



**532 1880 Round 50¢. BG-1068. Rarity-5+. Indian Head. MS-62 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Christopher "Christoph" Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-1067.

**PCGS Population:** 5; 10 finer.





**533 1881 Round 50c. BG-1069. Rarity-4+. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State II).

**Maker:** Christopher "Christoph" Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 9; 4 finer (all MS-65).



**534 1881 Round 50c. BG-1070. Rarity-5. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State II). One of the top ten examples certified by PCGS.

**Maker:** Christopher "Christoph" Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-1069.

**PCGS Population:** 9; 1 finer (MS-65).



**536 1874 Round 50c. BG-1072. Rarity-6. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State I). One of the top four examples certified by PCGS. Variety discovered by Kenneth Lee sometime between 1950 and 1955.

**Maker:** Christopher "Christoph" Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-1071.

**PCGS Population:** 3; 1 finer (MS-65).



**537 1874 Round 50c. BG-1072. Rarity-6. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State II). Bright and prooflike, with sunny-yellow fields and frosty high points. Moderate "ghosting" on both sides, particularly on the reverse. One of the top four examples certified by PCGS. Variety discovered by Kenneth Lee sometime between 1950 and 1955, now awaiting inclusion in your fine collection.

**Maker:** Christopher "Christoph" Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 3; 1 finer.

**"1874" Back-Dated Half Dollar  
BG-1071, Rarity-7**



**535 1874 Round 50c. BG-1071. Rarity-7. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State I). The finest of only four examples certified by PCGS. Prooflike. Die evidence proves that this variety was made sometime around 1881, a fact that would have aided Secret Service Agent James Brooks in his attempts to shut down the manufacturers of small denomination California gold coins. The back-dating of coins made in 1881 would have amounted to an almost *de facto* admission on the part of the maker of an intent to circumvent the law.

**Maker:** Christopher "Christoph" Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 1; none finer.

*From our sale of the Texas collection, January 10, 1992, Lot 4413. Previously from Mike Brownlee, earlier from Pacific Coast Auction Galleries' "Steinmetz" sale, June 5, 1987, Lot 1656.*

**Rare "1868" Back-Dated 50c  
BG-1073, Rarity-7+**



**538 1868 Round 50c. BG-1073. Rarity-7+. Indian Head. MS-65 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. The finest of five examples certified by PCGS. Variety discovered by the Doerings and first published by them in 1980.

The sturdy reverse die of this variety was muled obverses dated 1852, 1868, 1874, 1876, 1880, and 1881 – all believed to have been made around the same time!

**Maker:** Christopher "Christoph" Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 1; none finer.





**539 1868 Round 50¢. BG-1074. Rarity-6. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. One of the top six examples certified by PCGS.

**Maker:** Christopher "Christoph" Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 5; 1 finer (MS-65).



**542 1882 Round 50¢. BG-1077. Rarity-6+. Indian Head. MS-63 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Tied with three others for top honors at PCGS.

**Maker:** Nast, Greenzweig & Co.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 4; none finer.

**Marvelous "1852" Back-Dated BG-1075 50c  
Tied For Finest Known**



**540 1852 Round 50¢. BG-1075. Rarity-7. Indian Head. MS-65 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Exceptional quality for the variety – tied with one other example as the finest certified by PCGS. Variety discovered by Jay Rowe in 1979 and first published in Doering's second edition in June 1982.

**Maker:** Christopher "Christoph" Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 2; none finer.

*Purchased unattributed from Walter Sinden on May 7, 1979.*

**Extremely Rare Undated Liberty Head  
Half Dollar**

**BG-1078, Rarity-7**

**Formerly BG-1312, Now Renumbered and  
Assigned to Period Two**



**543 Undated Round 50¢. BG-1078. Rarity-7. Liberty Head. AU-50. The**

plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Delightful green-gold colors, somewhat darker in the fields and lighter on the high points. Faint hairlines on both sides, but condition is irrelevant on this extremely rare variety. One of the great curiosities of the series, an enigmatic issue of unknown origin. The dies cannot be tied to any of the major manufacturers, leading experts to question if this was even made in California. However, the variety has been known since at least 1891, when a piece belonging to the former mayor of Philadelphia, Charles Gilpin, appeared in a Chapman Brothers auctions. In the first edition of Breen-Gillio, this variety was listed as BG-1312, but further research and study resulted in the assignment of this piece to Period Two and the designation of a new number.

**Maker:** Unknown Maker "H".

**Edge:** Reeded.

*Purchased from James Masterson on April 21, 1988.*



**541 1852 Round 50¢. BG-1076. Rarity-6-. Indian Head. MS-63 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Christopher "Christoph" Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 8; 6 finer.



**Exceedingly Rare BG-1079 Half Dollar**  
Formerly BG-1313, Now Renumbered and  
Assigned to Period Two



544 Undated Round 50¢. BG-1079. Rarity-8. Liberty Head. AU-50. The plate coin for Doering and the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Lightly cleaned, with pale green-gold surfaces and soft pink high points. An exceedingly rare variety, currently known by only two examples: this one and the piece Virgil Brand acquired in 1919 (and eventually sold by us on our Boyd, Brand & Ryder sale of 1990, Lot 1824). We cannot think of a better definition of "rare."

Like BG-1078, this variety was assigned to Period Two and given an appropriate, new number (from BG-1313 to BG-1079). Unfortunately, the maker of this piece remains a mystery.

**Maker:** Unknown Maker "H".

**Edge:** Reeded.

*Purchased from Kurt Krueger on August 18, 1980.*

**Extremely Rare 1859-FD Half Dollar**  
BG-1101, Rarity-7+  
Finest Known by a Large Margin



545 1859-FD Octagonal \$1. BG-1101. Rarity-7+. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. An extreme rarity and the finest (by five points) of the three examples certified by PCGS.

This is the only 1859-dated Gold Dollar of any type (Octagonal, Round, or Fantasy). Production must have been very limited, a factor aggravated (perhaps) by the company's move to a new location around this time. All but one of the known examples displays evidence of circulation, indicating a modicum of acceptance as a piece of money.

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**PCGS Population:** 1; none finer.

*From Superior's "Jascha Heifetz" sale, October 1, 1989, Lot 387. Earlier from Thomas Elder's sale of the Comstock-Guntber collections, January 26, 1935, Lot 1103.*



546 1860 Octagonal \$1. BG-1102. Rarity-4. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State I).

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 20; 27 finer.

**Elusive BG-1103 Octagonal Gold Dollar**



547 1860 Octagonal \$1. BG-1103. Rarity-7+. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. An exceedingly rare variety, at least in conditions nice enough to merit certification.

Since this variety was first published in the March 1884 issue of *The Coin Collector's Journal*, only a handful of examples have been found. To date, PCGS has graded only four examples of this variety, this being the second finest example seen by them.

**Maker:** Frontier, Deviercy & Co.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-1102.

**PCGS Population:** 1; 1 finer (MS-63).

*From our sale of the "Salisbury & Woods" collections, September 12, 1994, Lot 1569.*

**Desirable BG-1104 Octagonal \$1**



548 1871 Octagonal \$1. BG-1104. Rarity-4+. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Frontier & Co.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-1103.

**PCGS Population:** 8; 11 finer.



## Robert Gray "Find" Gold Dollar



- 549 1868-G Octagonal \$1. BG-1105. Rarity-4+. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. PCGS has graded seven examples at this level, but none finer.

Maker: Robert B. Gray & Co.

Edge: Plain.

PCGS Population: 7; none finer.

## BG-1106 - State I



- 550 1869-G Octagonal \$1. BG-1106. Rarity-4+. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State I). This is the only MS-64 graded by PCGS, and the best graded by them.

Maker: Robert B. Gray & Co.

Edge: Partial, crudely reeded edge.

Obverse: Same as BG-1105.

Die State I:

PCGS Population: 1; none finer.



- 551 1869-G Octagonal \$1. BG-1106. Rarity-4+. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State II).

Maker: Robert B. Gray & Co.

Edge: Crudely reeded.

PCGS Population: 7; 36 finer.



- 552 1870-G Octagonal \$1. BG-1107. Rarity-5. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A top-notch example of the variety – tied with two others for top honor at PCGS.

Maker: Robert B. Gray & Co.

Edge: Crudely reeded.

PCGS Population: 3; none finer.

Extremely Rare 1870-G Octagonal \$1  
BG-1108, One of Approximately 10 Known

- 553 1870-G Octagonal \$1. BG-1108. Rarity-7. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State II). Reverse die shattered and buckled on the left side, accounting for the great rarity of this number. This is the finest of the ten examples listed by Leonard et al, and is among the best certified by PCGS (six examples, only three of which are Mint State).

Maker: Robert B. Gray & Co.

Edge: Weakly reeded.

Obverse: Same as BG-1107.

PCGS Population: 3; none finer.

From Heritage's "ANA" sale, July 30, 1994, Lot 8132.

## Very Scarce BG-1109 \$1



- 554 1871-G Octagonal \$1. BG-1109. Rarity-4-. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS).

Maker: Robert B. Gray & Co.

Edge: Weakly reeded.

PCGS Population: 22; 14 finer.



## Exceedingly Rare 1874 Octagonal Gold Dollar

One of Six to Seven Known



555 1874 Octagonal \$1. BG-1110. Rarity-7+. Liberty Head. AU-50. The plate coin for Doering and the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Typical yellow-gold surfaces, with ample lustre for the grade. Listed as "AU-50" in Breen-Gillio, apparently without considering filing on the top and upper right facets of the obverse (possibly to remove some solder). Extremely rare; Leonard et al list seven specimens, some of which may be duplicates.

Known as early as 1922, this variety remained unpublished until 1957, when it appeared as Lot 5186 in New Netherland's *Numisma*.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Edge:** Plain.

*Purchased from Matt DeRoma on January 9, 1981. Previously from Steve Ivy's "ANA" sale, August 18, 1980, Lot 553. Even earlier from B. Max Mehl.*

## Important BG-1111 Gold Dollar

One of Five Known



556 1875 Octagonal \$1. BG-1111. Rarity-7+. Liberty Head. AU-58 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. PCGS has graded only two examples of this variety – one of which is this coin, the other sold as part of the "Second Finest" collection.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 2; nine finer.

## Elusive BG-1112 Indian Head \$1



557 1875 Octagonal \$1. BG-1112. Rarity-5+. Indian Head. MS-62 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Discovered sometime before 1907 by Augustus Heaton.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 8; 11 finer.

## Extremely Rare BG-1113 Gold Dollar



558 1876 Octagonal \$1. BG-1113. Rarity-7. Indian Head. EF-40. The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Lightly hairlined from an old cleaning, but still bright and lustrous. Leonard et al suspect that this variety consists of gold plating over a baser, red-gold core...this example gives credence to that theory, as the edges, where the plating has worn off, are much darker than the rest of the coin. Extremely rare; only 10 examples are listed in Breen-Gillio with the notation: "Much duplication here."

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Edge:** Plain.

*From Heritage's "ANA" sale, August 22, 1985, Lot 5532.*

## Extremely Rare 1876 Indian Head \$1

No More Than Seven Known



559 1876 Octagonal \$1. BG-1114. Rarity-7+. Indian Head. MS-60 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. This particular example is ranked fifth out of the seven examples listed by Leonard et al. Attributed to maker Herman Brand and better-made than most of his products. PCGS has graded only four examples of this variety. Variety discovered by Kenneth Lee, sometime before the publication of his 1970 reference.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 1; 3 finer (the best is a pair at the MS-63 level).



560 1876 Octagonal \$1. BG-1115. Rarity-6. Indian Head. MS-62 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. One of the top ten examples certified by PCGS. Discovered by Kenneth Lee sometime prior to the publication of his reference book in 1970.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-1114.

**PCGS Population:** 6; 3 finer (the best is a single MS-64).



## Unique BG-1115A



561 1876 Octagonal \$1. BG-1115A. Unique. Indian Head. MS-60 (PCGS).

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Brilliant, olive-green surfaces with lots of Prooflike reflectivity. A rock-solid MS-60 example. The PCGS Population Report does not list any examples of BG-1115A. However, the Report shows two BG-1116A's in MS-60. Because this coin is believed to be unique, the "second" specimen is most likely a resubmission of this coin. The alternative is the existence of a second specimen, an exciting possibility for collectors of this series! Variety discovered by Robert Lecce in 1995.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as B G-1115.



562 1876 Octagonal \$1. BG-1116. Rarity-6+. Indian Head. MS-60 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. PCGS has graded only eight examples of this variety.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

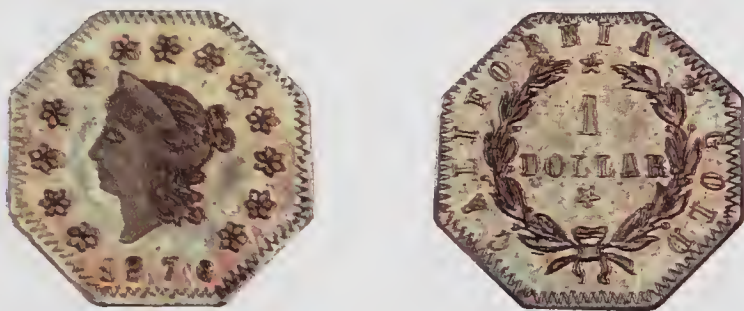
**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-1115.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-1115A.

**PCGS Population:** 1; 7 finer.

### Extremely Rare "Baby Head" Octagonal \$1 1876 BG-1117, Four to Five Known



563 1876 Octagonal \$1. BG-1117. Rarity-7+. Liberty Head. MS-62 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Nicely toned in olive and copper-orange iridescence over Prooflike surfaces. PCGS has graded only two examples of this date, this being second best by a single point. In the list provided in *California Pioneer Fractional Gold*, this piece is ranked number one!

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 1; 1 finer (MS-63).

*From Superior's "Club Cal Neva" sale, September 22, 1987, Lot 4689. Earlier from F.C.C. Boyd.*

## Exceedingly Rare 1876 "Baby Head"

BG-1117A \$1

The Best of Three Known



564 1876 Octagonal \$1. BG-1117A. Rarity-8. Liberty Head. Baby Head Type. AU-55 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Brilliant Prooflike lustre, with green-gold surfaces enhanced by a coppery toning. This variety was discovered by Walter Breen in 1957, but he accidentally left it out of the first edition of *California Pioneer Fractional Gold*. In 1995, the rediscovery of this variety was announced in the July 10 issue of *Coin World*.

**Maker:** Herman J. Brand.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-1116.

**PCGS Population:** 2; none finer.

*From Superior's "Club Cal Neva" sale, September 22, 1987, Lot 4688. Earlier from New Netherlands "Numisma", April 1, 1957. Earlier from F.C.C. Boyd.*



565 1870 Octagonal \$1. BG-1118. Rarity-5-. Liberty Head. Goofy Head. MS-62 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Variety discovered by Augustus Heaton prior to 1908.

**Maker:** Unknown Maker "C".

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**PCGS Population:** 7; 4 finer.



566 1872 Octagonal \$1. BG-1119. Rarity-5+. Indian Head. MS-63 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**PCGS Population:** 5; 7 finer (all MS-64).





- 567 1872 Octagonal \$1. BG-1120. Rarity-5-. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-1119.

**PCGS Population:** 11; 1 finer (MS-65).



- 570 1873 Octagonal \$1. BG-1123. Rarity-4+. Indian Head. MS-62 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State I). Brilliant, Prooflike lustre. Struck from perfect reverse dies, without the crack on from the rim to the wreath left of DOLLAR.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-1120.

**PCGS Population:** 13; 16 finer.

### Extremely Rare 1873/2 Indian Head \$1 BG-1121, One of a Dozen Known



- 568 1873/2 Octagonal \$1. BG-1121. Rarity-7-. Indian Head. MS-61 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Prooflike, lightly hairlined. Lustrous, yellow-gold surfaces. A gross alteration of the obverse die of BG-1120, changing the 2 to a lumpy 3. Leonard et al list a dozen examples, with this being fifth finest according to them.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Weakly reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-1119.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-1120.

**PCGS Population:** 2; 5 finer (the best is a single MS-64).

*From John Paul Sarosi, March 21, 1987. Earlier from our "Princeton and Ingle" sale, September 9, 1986, Lot 2436.*



- 571 1874 Octagonal \$1. BG-1124. Rarity-4+. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Dazzling prooflike lustre, with lots of reflective brilliance surrounding frosted devices. A choice piece with great eye appeal. Variety discovered by David Proskey or John W. Scott and first published in 1884. One of the top ten examples certified by PCGS.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-1120.

**PCGS Population:** 9; 1 finer (a single MS-65).



- 572 1875 Octagonal \$1. BG-1125. Rarity-5-. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State I). No clashmarks on the reverse, but with a crack or two as a prelude to the eventual shattering. Bright yellow-green surfaces, with slightly hazy lustre on both sides. Rare.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded (after striking).

**Reverse:** Same as BG-1120.

**PCGS Population:** 14; 1 finer (a single MS-65).



- 569 1873/2 Octagonal \$1. BG-1122. Rarity-6+. Indian Head. AU-58 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-1120.

**PCGS Population:** 4; 7 finer.





- 573 1875 Octagonal \$1. BG-1125, for type. Rarity-5-. Indian Head. Love token. EF-40. Cleaned, now a pink-gold color. The reverse of this piece was planed down and re-engraved with "SVC" (or some combination thereof) and a border was placed around the ornate monogram. Holed at the top for suspension, with the top edge broken through. An interesting piece made all the more valuable due to the rarity of the variety.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-1120.



- 574 1875 Octagonal \$1. BG-1126. Rarity-5. Indian Head. MS-61 (PCGS).

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Delightful green-gold, Prooflike surfaces. The reverse shows none of the shattering cited in *California Pioneer Fractional Gold*, indicating that this may be one of the earliest states known of the dies. An important rarity for the specialist.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-1125.

**PCGS Population:** 1; 16 finer.



- 575 1875 Octagonal \$1. BG-1127. Rarity-4. Indian Head. MS-62 (PCGS).

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Lovely, copper-colored toning over fully brilliant and reflective surfaces. Reasonably well struck for a variety that is known for its central weakness. Slight planchet bend?

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-1125.

**PCGS Population:** 18; 19 finer.



- 576 1876/5 Octagonal \$1. BG-1128. Rarity-5. Indian Head. MS-64 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Not really an overdate; rather, the 5 of the date on the obverse of BG-1127 has been crudely altered to a 6. Typical, brilliant Prooflike lustre. One of the top ten examples certified by PCGS. Variety discovered by Augustus Heaton sometime before 1908.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-1125.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-1127.

**PCGS Population:** 7; 2 finer (both MS-65).



- 577 1876/5 Octagonal \$1. BG-1129. Rarity-4. Indian Head. MS-64

(PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A bright, Prooflike example. From the same dies as BG-1128, but the reverse has been "improved" by strengthening some details and adding others. Thus, it must have been a tough call whether to make this a sub-variety (BG-1128a) or a new variety (BG-1129). Obviously, the latter choice was made. PCGS has assigned this grade to 12 examples, but none have been graded higher.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-1125.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-1127.

**PCGS Population:** 12; none finer.





**Very Rare BG-1201**  
**One of the Finest Examples Known**



**578 1871 Round \$1. BG-1201. Rarity-6+. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Amazing, Prooflike brilliance, caused by a myriad of concentric die polishing lines. A glittering, green-gold jewel that offers tremendous eye appeal. Crude copies of this variety exist (BG-1329) but only novice collectors would be deceived. Called a "Broad Head" but, in reality, this is one of the finest heads one will find on a gold dollar. You won't find a better example – this is the highest grade assigned to this variety by PCGS.

**Maker:** Frontier & Co.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**PCGS Population:** 3; none finer.



**579 1870-G Round \$1. BG-1202. Rarity-5+. Liberty Head. MS-64 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Glittering Prooflike surfaces enhanced by lilac-rose iridescence around most of the raised design elements. This is the finest example certified by PCGS and the only coin at this level. A wonderful coin that should see spirited bidding.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Reeded.

**PCGS Population:** 1; none finer.



**580 1870-G Round \$1. BG-1202. Rarity-5+. Liberty Head. Love Token.**

**No Grade** Bright yellow-gold on the obverse, somewhat coppery in color on the reverse. Reverse planed down and handsomely engraved with ornate initials "JM". Holed at the top of the reverse for suspension.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Reeded.

*From our sale of the Garrett collection, Part IV, Lot 2222. Earlier from Colonel James W. Ellsworth via Wayte Raymond.*



**581 1870-G Round \$1. BG-1203. Rarity-5-. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio (to illustrate State II). Intense, sunny-yellow lustre and full Prooflike brilliance. Nicely struck from highly polished dies. One of the top nine examples certified by PCGS.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**PCGS Population:** 7; 2 finer (both MS-64).





- 582 1871-G Round \$1. BG-1204. Rarity-5+. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS). The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. None have been graded finer by PCGS.

**Maker:** Robert B. Gray & Co.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**PCGS Population:** 4; none finer.



- 585 1872 Round \$1. BG-1206. Rarity-6+. Indian Head. MS-63 (PCGS).

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Usual, brilliant prooflike finish, here in a bright, yellow gold color. Tied with three others for "Finest Certified" honors at PCGS, a significant statement since PCGS has graded only 10 examples of this variety. Variety discovered by Kenneth Lee sometime before the publication of his reference book in 1970.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**PCGS Population:** 4; none finer.



- 583 1870 Round \$1. BG-1205. Rarity-4+. Liberty Head. MS-63 (PCGS).

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. This variety circulated well and Mint State examples are very rare. This example is tied with one other as the finest certified by PCGS.

**Maker:** Unknown Maker "C".

**Edge:** Plain.

**PCGS Population:** 2; none finer.



- 586 1872 Round \$1. BG-1207. Rarity-4. Indian Head. MS-62 (PCGS).

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-1206.

**PCGS Population:** 21; 26 finer (the best is a single MS-65).



- 584 1870 Round \$1. BG-1205. Rarity-4+. Liberty Head. AU-55 (PCGS).

**Maker:** Unknown Maker "C".

**PCGS Population:** 5; 20 finer.



**Exciting BG-1208 Rarity**  
**The Only Cal Gold Piece Bearing the Word "Token"**



**587 1872 Round \$1. BG-1208. Rarity-6-. Indian Head. MS-63 (PCGS).** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Brilliant, honey-gold lustre on deeply mirrored surfaces. The only coin in the entire series of small denomination California gold that bears the word "TOKEN." This word was most likely added in reaction to the arrest of makers Hershfield and Mitchell in August 1871 for violating the Private Coinages Act of June 8, 1864. Eventually, the prosecution was abandoned and business returned to normal, as evidenced by the large number of varieties issued between 1871 and 1883. Thus, this piece has special appeal to collectors of this series because of its wonderful story.

**Maker:** Christopher (Christoph) Ferdinand Mohrig.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-1207.

PCGS Population: 4; 1 finer (MS-64).



**588 1857 Octagonal 25¢. BG-1301. Rarity-3. Liberty Head. Choice AU-55.** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Beautiful copper and blue toning over frosty golden surfaces. From the original Kroll striking circa 1906-1908, not a later restrike (BG-1301A), and certainly not from 1857! "Originals" can be separated from the "Restrikes" by their lower quality gold (which tarnishes more readily) and the heavier weight (Restrikes were made on much thinner planchets). The dies and head punch for this variety are still in existence today. 260 of the 965 coins in the Kroll Hoard were of this variety.

**Maker:** H. Kroll & Co.

**Edge:** Plain.



**589 1857 Octagonal 25¢. BG-1301A, Restrike. Liberty Head. MS-65.** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Intense, sunny-yellow lustre. A beautiful piece made late in 1968 from the original Kroll dies. These "Restrikes" were made of higher quality gold (22 KT versus 9 KT), the planchets are much thinner, and the edges are reeded (versus plain). Once considered trinkets, they are now an important, albeit inexpensive, part of this series. Surprisingly, PCGS will not grade these pieces, presumably since they are private, not officially sanctioned pieces. But, isn't that the definition of a small denomination California gold piece?

**Maker:** Hercaimy Enterprises.

**Edge:** Reeded.





**590 1855 Round 25¢. BG-1302. Rarity-3. Liberty Head. EF-45.** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Soft coppery toning and minimal wear. Most likely from the Kroll hoard (which included 281 examples of this variety). The dies for this variety are still in existence, but unlike BG-1301, no restrikes are known or suspected to have been made.

**Maker:** H. Kroll & Co.

**Edge:** Plain.



**591 1868 Octagonal 50¢. BG-1303. Rarity-4. Liberty Head. MS-64.** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A Gem example of this variety, with full blazing lustre and deep mint frost. As nice an example as one could hope to find. 89 pieces were found in the Kroll hoard, along with the dies. No restrikes are known to have been made, but the fineness of this piece appears to exceed the 9 Karats listed in the Breen-Gillio reference. If restrikes were indeed made, then the BG-1303A number would have to be resurrected to account for this first appearance.

**Maker:** H. Kroll & Co.

**Edge:** Plain.



**592 1854 Round 50¢. BG-1304. Rarity-4. Liberty Head. MS-63.** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Bright, yellow-gold surfaces. Small lamination flaw on the upper left obverse and slightly bent at the base of the obverse. Most likely from the Kroll hoard, which contained 65 examples of this variety. Once common, this variety has become particularly elusive today.

**Maker:** H. Kroll & Co.

**Edge:** Plain.



**593 1854 Round 50¢. BG-1304A, Counterfeit. Liberty Head. MS-65.** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A modern forgery made from copy dies of the obverse of BG-1304 (is a copy of a fantasy a counterfeit?) and a polished Kroll reverse of the same number.

**Maker:** Hercaimy Enterprises.

**Edge:** Reeded.

### Extremely Rare "1863" Backdated Kroll Half Dollar



**594 1863 Round 50¢. BG-1305. Rarity-7+. Liberty Head. MS-60.** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Satiny yellow, loaded with lustre and choice. Minor spotting on the left side of the reverse, inside the wreath. This is the rarest of all the Kroll varieties and one of the most popular because of the grossly blundered fraction (1 over 9 corrected to 1 over 2). None were included in the Kroll hoard and today only four examples are known, this being one of three Uncirculated pieces. A wonderful item that is sure to tickle the fancy of any advanced collector.

**Maker:** H. Kroll & Co.

**Edge:** Plain.

*From Kurt Krueger's "Grafton" sale, May 10, 1980, Lot 557. Earlier from the Konicki Koin Kompany.*



**595 1858-K Octagonal \$1. BG-1306. Rarity-3. Liberty Head. MS-60.** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Soft, golden lustre, light obverse hairlines. The Kroll hoard, which contained 116 examples of this variety is the most probable source for this piece. The dies for this variety are still in existence, but no restrikes are known to have been made.

**Maker:** H. Kroll & Co.

**Edge:** Plain.





**596 1863 Octagonal \$1. BG-1307. Rarity-4-. Liberty Head. EF-45.** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Sunny yellow surfaces, minimal friction on the highest points. The Kroll Hoard included 154 examples of this variety, accounting for most of the pieces known today. Restrikes from these dies are known, but they have reeded edges, the quality of the gold is higher, and the weight is lower.

**Maker:** H. Kroll & Co.

**Edge:** Plain.



**597 1863 Octagonal \$1. BG-1307A, Restrike. Liberty Head. MS-64.** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A modern (1968) restrike made from the "original" Kroll dies, but here with reeded edges and a higher-quality gold to differentiate them from the plain edge, 9KT pieces made early in the 20th century.

**Maker:** Hercaimy Enterprises.

**Edge:** Reeded.

### Unusual "1854" BG-1309 50c

**Believed to be Back-Dated by as Much as a Century!**



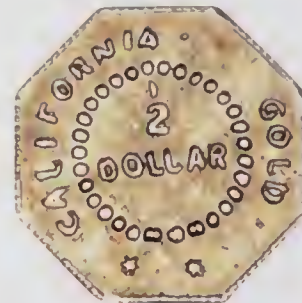
**598 1854 Octagonal 50c. BG-1309. Rarity-7+. Liberty Head. MS-60.** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Variety discovered by Jay Rowe in May 1982. Listed as "Uncirculated" by Leonard et al. The obverse has a bright, polished appearance while the reverse is somewhat frostier in appearance. Believed to be a modern fantasy piece from the 1950's, but this is purely a guess. Unfortunately, the dies don't match up with any varieties from Period One or Two and the crude die work and unusual placement of the date bring this piece into question. Nonetheless, it does possess a coveted Breen-Gillio number. Thus, if you collect this series, you've gotta have it!

**Maker:** Unknown Maker "I".

**Edge:** Reeded.

*From Stack's May 13, 1982 sale, Lot 926.*

### Extremely Rare BG-1310 "1854" Half Dollar



**599 1854 Octagonal 50c. BG-1310. Rarity-7+. Liberty Head. MS-65.** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Variety discovered by R.H. Burnie sometime between 1952 and 1955. An impressive example, the finest of six piece currently known to exist. Bright, chrome-like obverse lustre; satiny reverse surfaces. Same comments as the preceding, including the fact that this is an integral part of this fascinating series.

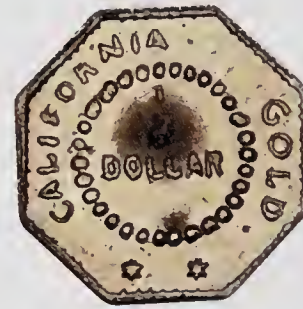
**Maker:** Unknown Maker "I".

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-1309.

*Purchased from Jim McGuigan on July 30, 1984.*

### Unique "1854" BG-1311 Half Dollar Fantasy? First-ever Public Offering



**600 1854 Octagonal 50c. BG-1311. Unique. Liberty Head. Net AU-50.**

The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Uncirculated, but downgraded because of an obvious spot in the exact center of the reverse and another, smaller one, near the inside bottom of the wreath. To date, this is the only example known. Same obverse die as BG-1309 and BG-1310, believed to have been made sometime in the 1950's. Variety discovered by David Doering sometime between 1980 and 1982.

**Maker:** Unknown Maker "I".

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-1311.



### Extremely Rare BG-1314 Quarter Dollar One of Two (Possibly Three) Known



- 601 Undated Round 25¢. BG-1314. Rarity-8. Liberty Head. AU-58.** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Pleasing, yellow-gold surfaces, minor glue traces around the bust. A curious piece that raises a lot of interesting questions. The first appearance of this variety (this example) was in our 1975 sale of the Newport collection. When we re-sold the piece as part of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. collection in 1999, we catalogued it as BG-224A because of the similarity in style and appearance with BG-224. Jay Rowe purchased the piece sight unseen and it has remained a prized part of his collection until today. The weight of this piece is heavy enough for Period One, but too heavy for Period Two. However, weights on modern fantasy pieces vary widely and, thanks to the publication of the Breen-Gillio references, it's easy for counterfeiters to determine the approximate designs and weights necessary for the various Periods (one of the negative outcomes of modern research). We make these observations not to impugn this piece but to show some of the factors that are included when determinations are made concerning newly discovered pieces. We suspect that competition for this coin will be as intense as it was when Mr. Rowe was the successful bidder!

**Maker:** Unknown Maker "J".

**Edge:** Reeded.

*From our sale of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. collection, May 9, 1999, Lot 2577, as "BG-224A" and presented (incorrectly) as having the obverse die of 224 and a new reverse.*



- 603 Undated Round 50¢. BG-1316. Rarity-8. Indian Princess Head. Net AU-50;** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A modern fantasy piece most likely made for jewelry purposes. This example is Uncirculated but has a spot of solder at the base of the reverse.

**Maker:** Unknown Maker "K".

**Edge:** Reeded.

*From our sale of the Virgil Brand Collection Part II, June 1984, Lot 1624.*

### Extremely Rare(?) Modern "1851" Fantasy Half Dollar BG-1317



- 604 1851 Round 50¢. BG-1317, Counterfeit? Rarity-8. Liberty Head. MS-65.** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A modern forgery. Listed as Rarity-8 in the second edition of Breen-Gillio, but with the suspected modern date of manufacture, additional pieces are likely to show up, if they have not already done so.

**Maker:** Unknown Maker "L".

**Edge:** Reeded.

### Possibly Unique BG-1315 Quarter Dollar



- 602 (1850s) Round 25¢. BG-1315. Unique? Liberty Head. MS-67.** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A stunning, superb example, loaded with sunny-yellow lustre and dazzling, cartwheel brilliance. Same obverse die as BG-1314; same reverse, but re-engraved. One of the rarest, nicest quality coins in the Rowe collection!

**Maker:** Unknown Maker "J".

**Edge:** Reeded.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-1314.

### Possibly Unique BG-1318 Half Dollar



- 605 1851 Round 50¢. BG-1318. Unique? Liberty Head. MS-63.** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. To date, the only example known of this modern counterfeit. Leonard et al call this "Brass," a determination that may have been made by Mr. Rowe (who loved to test the alloy content of his coins). However, to the eye, the coin appears to be made of a golden alloy, or perhaps a gold-plated base core.

**Maker:** Unknown Maker "K".

**Edge:** Plain.

**Obverse:** Same as BG-1317.

*Purchased at the 1988 ANA convention.*





**606 1851 Round 50¢. BG-1320, Counterfeit? Rarity-7. Liberty Head. MS-63.** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A crude, modern forgery. Appears to be "as made" but the rough surface texture makes it difficult to determine the true grade. Variety discovered by Jay Rowe in 1978.

**Maker:** Unknown.

**Edge:** Plain.

*Purchased from the Shaker Coin Shop at the Central States Convention on May 12, 1978.*



**607 1854 Round 50¢. BG-1321, Counterfeit? Rarity-5. Liberty Head. AU-55.** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A modern forgery.

**Maker:** Unknown.

**Edge:** Reeded.

### Deceptive 1858 BG-1324 Half Dollar Possibly Made From Altered Token Dies



**608 1858 Round 50¢. BG-1324, Counterfeit? Rarity-8. Liberty Head. AU-50.** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. Made of bright yellow gold. The quality is much better than many of the Period Three counterfeits and fantasy pieces (see many of the other pieces in this section) and if any are "real," this one has a good chance. The planchet is slightly wavy, hence the reduced grade.

**Maker:** Unknown.

**Edge:** Plain.

**Reverse:** Same as BG-1323.



**609 1871 Round \$1. BG-1329, D-508. Counterfeit? Rarity-7. Liberty Head. AU-55.** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A modern fantasy piece that first appeared circa 1959-1960.

**Maker:** Unknown.

**Edge:** Plain.

### Unique BG-1330



**610 1880 Round \$1. BG-1330. Rarity-8. Liberty Head. EF-45.** The plate coin for the second edition of Breen-Gillio. A hand-engraved copy of an 1880 gold dollar. How this piece ever snuck into the BG numbering system is beyond us – it has nothing to do with California Gold. At best, the lack of a reference to the United States of America shows that it is not an out-and-out counterfeit!

**Maker:** Unknown.

**Edge:** Crudely reeded.

*From our sale of the Henry H. Clifford Collection March 1982, Lot 174.*



# NOTES



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# NOTES



# NOTES



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